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ABSTRACT

This document presents a package of resources for planning a field trip to Maria Island, an island near Tasmania, Australia. A teacher's guide offers tips on organizing the school visit (bookings, accomodations, transport, what to bring to the island), pre-visit activities, on-site activities, and follow-up activities. Photographs, maps, a brief history of the island and selected historical documents are also provided. (DB)

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Maria ISLAND RESOURCE PACKAGE

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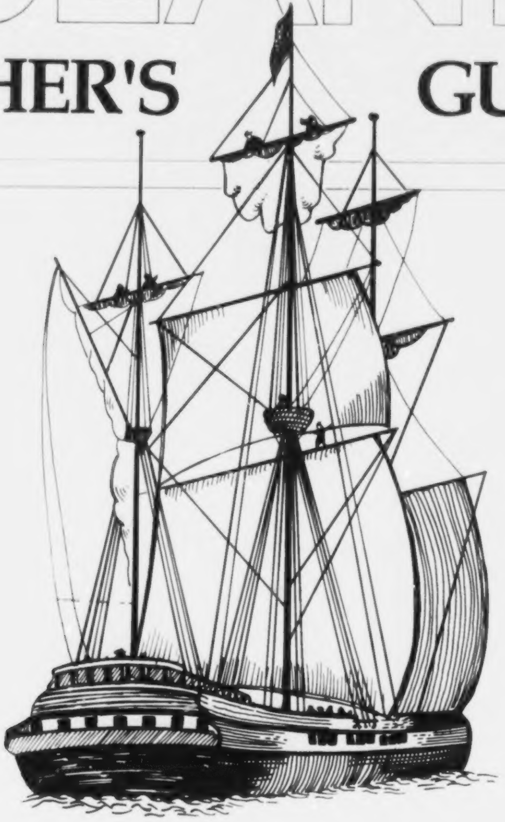
Maria ISLAND

Maria ISLAND

TEACHER'S GUIDE



Education Department   Tasmania

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge a number of people for their help in the preparation of this kit: Geoff Lennox of the Lands, Parks and Wildlife Service for his invaluable advice; Lands Parks and Wildlife for access to their photographic collection; the Maria Island Rangers — including Andrew Febey, Colin Spry, Mark Bryce and Alan Jackson; Ian Brand for his research on the convict buildings; Bill and Margaret Adkins who, as former residents, were very helpful in providing wonderful background information; and the many other ex-residents who contributed with their anecdotes and enthusiasm.

Jan Febey
Project officer

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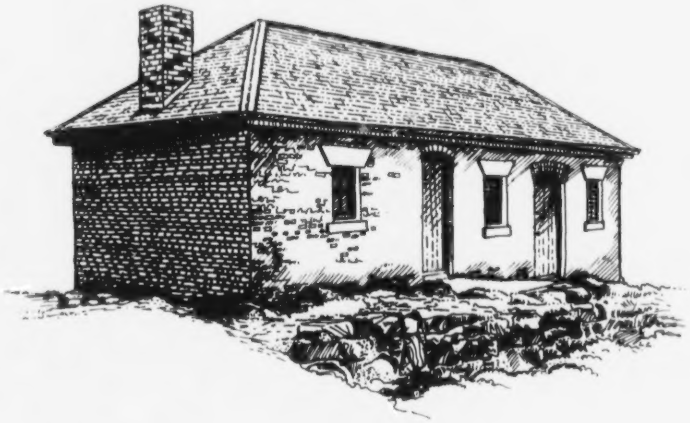
Contents

Introduction 1
Map of Darlington 3
Time-line 4
Organising your school visit 5
  Bookings 5
  Accommodation and amenities 5
  Transport 6
  Making the most of your visit 6
  What to bring to the island 7
  Your arrival on the island 9
Pre-visit activities 10
On-site activities 11
  Map of Darlington 11
  Photoprints 11
  Additional on-site activities 11
Follow-up activities 13
A brief history of Maria Island 14
  Aborigines 14
  Explorers 14
  Convicts 16
  Diego Bernacchi 19
  Cement Works, 1920s 23
  Present day 25
Selected historical documents 26
  Lieutenant Mortimer on Maria Island, 1789 26
  Thomas Lempriere, 1826 30
  A Maori warrior's long journey home 32
  Diego Bernacchi's Maria Island Company, 1888 35
  An Englishwoman visits Maria Island, 1889-90 37
  A time of pride and optimism, 1926 42

7



Introduction

Maria Island is an exceptionally fine destination for school excursions. Even the journey there is an adventure. The island offers a wide range of curricular activities from which visiting student groups can select. Some teachers may wish to focus upon activities which will promote the personal and social development of their students — giving emphasis to outdoor recreational activities that demand new forms of interaction and present new challenges. Other teachers may wish their students to focus upon the abundant and easy-to-observe wildlife that throngs the open spaces about Darlington. The mix and emphasis of each group's excursion program will vary depending on the age and interests of both the students and the teachers.

But whatever the curricular emphasis that teachers choose for their students, at sometime students will want to know something about the people who shaped the island's history and left or abandoned their hopes and purposes about the foreshore and buildings of Darlington.

Maria Island possesses and breathes an immediate and inescapable sense of history — the remnants of grand, proud plans and the fainter echoes of human heartache press about the visitor as he or she steps ashore.

This package, then, is provided for those teachers and students who want to explore Maria Island's past. The materials will enable teachers to organise a unit of study that uses the island's history as a theme. This book contains pre-visit activities as well as on-site activities and suggestions for follow-up work. The pre-visit activities are seen as especially important for preparing students so that they will be better able to understand and appreciate their surroundings at Darlington.

Even if teachers intend to give a different curricular emphasis to their excursion program, the activities and materials

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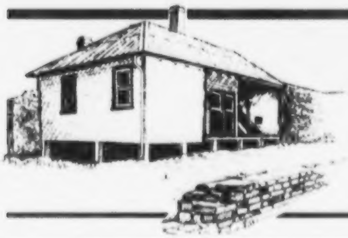
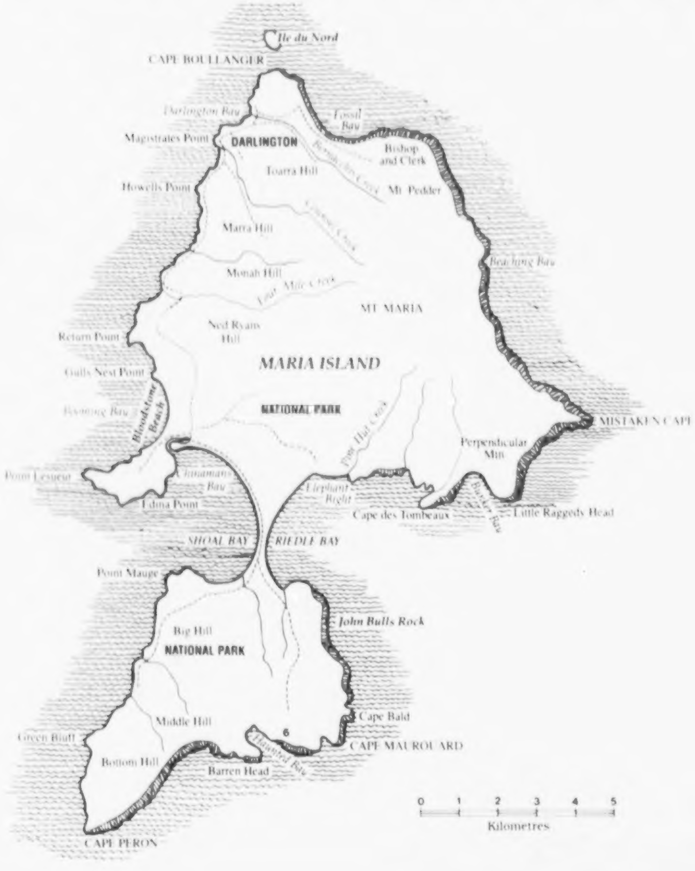


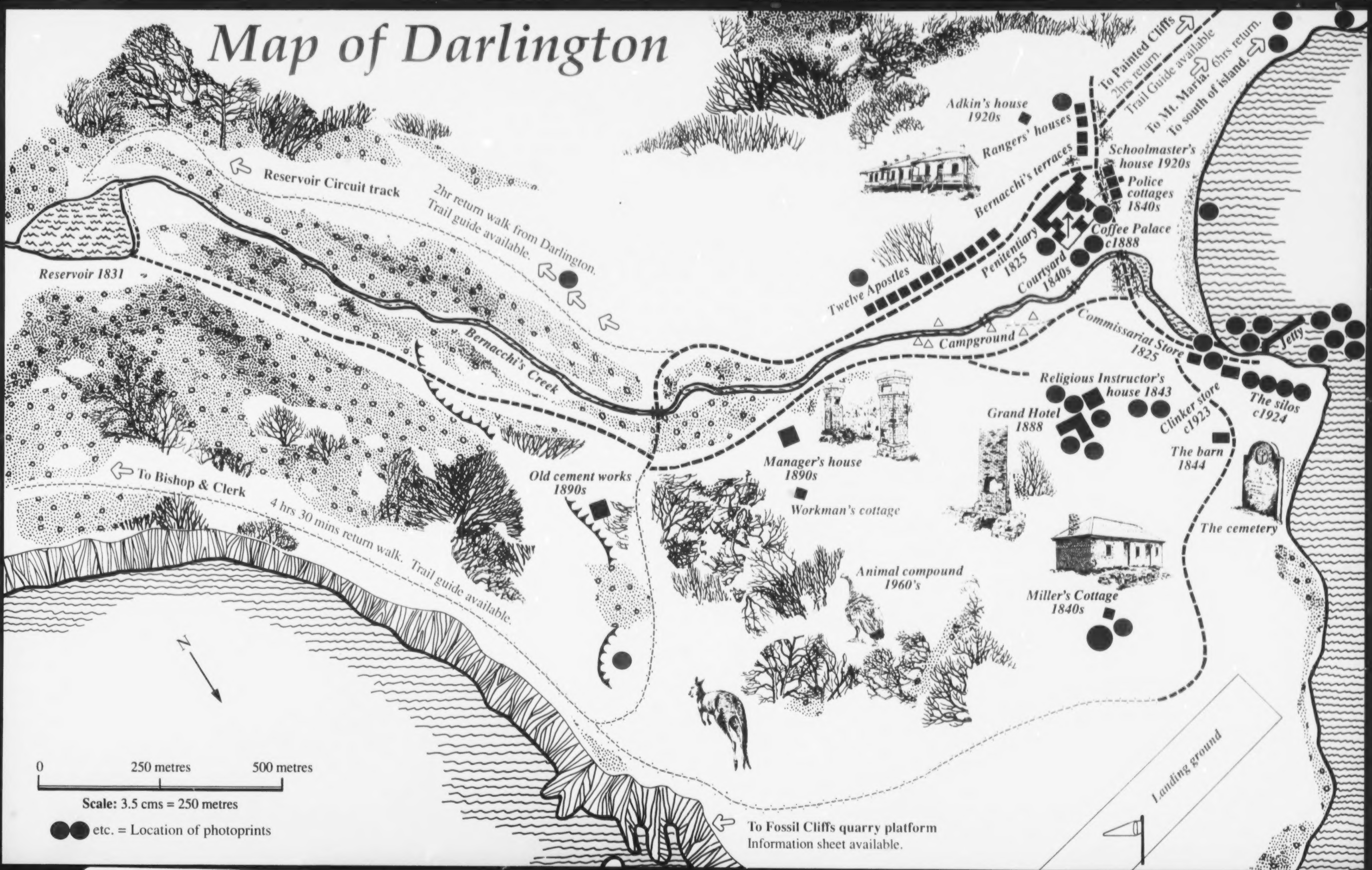
contained in this package will still provide useful background information.

The materials are suitable for use with a wide range of students, from middle primary to secondary grades. Teachers are encouraged to select and adapt the materials to meet the particular needs and interests of their students.

For those teachers who wish to develop a different or broader focus of study, a list of suitable materials developed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service is given on page seven.


Ile du Nord
CAPE BOULLANGER
Darlington Bay
Fossil Bay
Magistrates Point
DARLINGTON
Bishop and Clerk
Toarra Hill
Bernacchis Creek
Mt Pedder
Howells Point
Counsel Creek
Marra Hill
Reaching Bay
Monah Hill
Four Mile Creek
MT MARIA
Ned Ryans Hill
Return Point
MARIA ISLAND
Gulls Nest Point
Bloodstone Beach
Booming Bay
NATIONAL PARK
Pine Hut Creek
MISTAKEN CAPE
Perpendicular Mtn
Point Lesueur
Chinamans Bay
Elephant Bight
Edina Point
Cape des Tombeaux
Barkers Bay
Little Raggedy Head
SHOAL BAY
RIEDLE BAY
Point Mauge
John Bulls Rock
Big Hill
NATIONAL PARK
Middle Hill
Cape Bald
6
Green Bluff
Haunted Bay
CAPE MAUROUARD
Bottom Hill
Barren Head
CAPE PERON
0 1 2 3 4 5
Kilometres

Map of Darlington



Reservoir Circuit track
2hr return walk from Darlington.
Trail guide available.
Reservoir 1831
Bernacchi's Creek
To Bishop & Clerk
4 hrs 30 mins return walk. Trail guide available.
N
Old cement works
1890s
Manager's house
1890s
Workman's cottage
Animal compound
1960's
Twelve Apostles
Campground
Penitentiary
1825
Courtyard
1840s
Bernacchi's terraces
Rangers' houses
Adkin's house
1920s
To Painted Cliffs
2hrs return.
Trail Guide available
To Mt. Maria. 6hrs return.
To south of island.
Schoolmaster's
house 1920s
Police
cottages
1840s
Coffee Palace
c1888
Commissariat Store
1825
Jetty
Religious Instructor's
house 1843
Grand Hotel
1888
Clinker store
c1923
The silos
c1924
The barn
1844
The cemetery
Miller's Cottage
1840s
Landing ground
To Fossil Cliffs quarry platform
Information sheet available.
0
250 metres
500 metres
Scale: 3.5 cms = 250 metres
●● etc. = Location of photoprints

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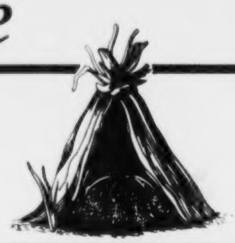
Time-line

Aborigines



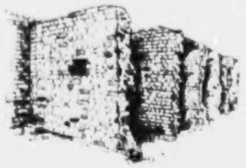
30,000 years ago	Tasmanian Aborigines arrived in Tasmania.	
12,000 years ago	Water levels rose. Bass Strait and Mercury Passage formed.	Plentiful shellfish.
⇩	Tasmanian Aborigines visiting island.	Reeds from island used to make canoes. Ochre collected from Bloodstone Point for body decoration.

Explorers

1642	Abel Tasman	Dutch explorer	Named "Maria Eylandt".
1773	Tobias Furneaux	English explorer	Sighted Maria Island.
1789	Captain John Cox	English explorer	Loaded wood, water. Ship *Mercury*. Met Aborigines.
1802	Captain Nicholas Baudin	French explorer	Explored, chartered area. Scientific observation. Met Aborigines.
1816	Captain James Kelly	Harbour Master, Hobart	Recommended island as second penal settlement.

Whaling and sealing—Whalers Cove, Elephant Bite

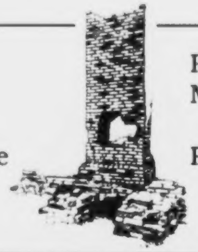
Convicts



1825 March	Lieutenant Peter Murdoch	Arrived; 50 convicts, soldiers	Set up penal settlement. Low food, sick men.
August	Major T.D. Lord	New Commandant	Brick/stone buildings, industries – tan yards, lumber yards brickfields, pottery, farm, hopfields. Tailors, turners, carpenters, blacksmiths, weavers, spinners, basketmakers.
1830		Port Arthur opened	
1832		Darlington closed	
1842	Samuel Lapham	Darlington Probation Station	Reopened as Agricultural Station – productive, well run
1845		Long Point Probation Station	Opened as Agricultural Station – poorly built, poorly run.
1850		Settlements close	

Grazing leases : the Dunbabbin and Fletcher families

Diego Bernacchi



1884	Diego Bernacchi	Rediscovers Maria Island	Perfect for wine and silk industries.
1887		Maria Island Company formed	More money available for larger scale industries – cement works – tourism.
1889		Maria Island exhibits at Melbourne Centennial Exhibition	Prize for wine.
1895		Bernacchi leaves island	

Grazing leases : including the McCulloch, Amiguet and McCrae families — Links Hotel, Mrs Adkins Boarding House

Cement Works

1919	Diego Bernacchi	In Melbourne	Raising capital for Cement Company.
1920	National Portland Cement	On Maria Island	Building of Cement Works commenced.
1925		30,000 tons cement produced	Darlington population 500.
1927		Financial difficulties	
1930		Cement Works closed down	

Grazing leases : including the Howells, French, Fox, Adkins and Robey families

N.P.W.S.

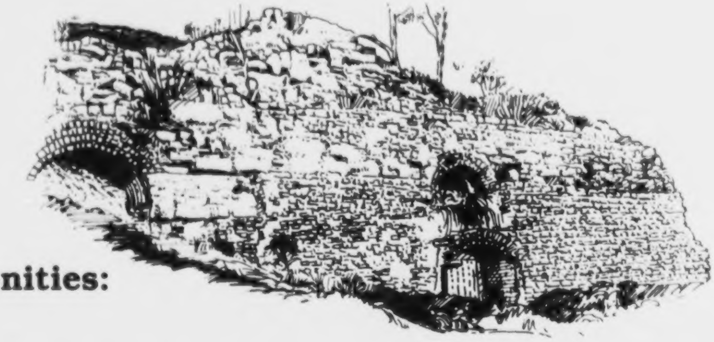
1965	Animals & Birds Protection Board	Maria Island– animal sanctuary	Land acquisition began.
1972	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Maria Island – National Park	Valuable flora and fauna.

Organising your school visit to Maria Island

Bookings

It is always necessary to book your stay on Maria Island—whatever the time of year. Bookings from school groups are accepted up to twelve months in advance. It is advisable to book well in advance. A deposit on your booking is required.

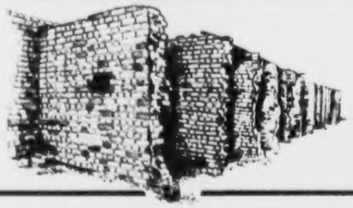
For more detailed information, and costs, please contact:
The Ranger,
Maria Island National Park,
C/o P.O. Triabunna,
Tasmania, 7190
Telephone (002) 57 1420



Accommodation and amenities:

Darlington

Penitentiary:	'Bunk house' accommodation in 1820s building, pot-bellied stoves, bunks, wooden tables and benches, wood room, toilet block. Groups are responsible for cleaning the accommodation at the end of their stay.
Campground:	Wood-fuelled barbecues, public toilets, water.
Picnic shelter:	Roofed area with free gas barbecues and tables.
Chapel:	Used for automated slide-talk. The chapel is available for group use at other times, by arrangement with Ranger staff or the Education Officer.



In the south

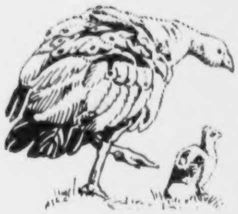
French's Farm:	A small campground is available with limited tank-water, pit toilet, wood-fuelled barbecues and rubbish bins.
Encampment Cove:	Limited water from small water-tank on a small hut/shelter, pit toilet, wood-fuelled barbecues.

Transport

A ferry service leaves from the Eastcoaster Resort, which is midway between Orford and Triabunna. Bookings are necessary.

Normal ferry departure times are 8.30am and 10.30am daily. Return times are 9.30am and 4.30pm.

For group bookings and detailed information, contact:
The Manager
The East Coaster Resort
Orford, Tasmania.
Telephone (002) 57 1172.



Arrange a departure time to suit your group. The ferry seats 50 and has ample stowage area.

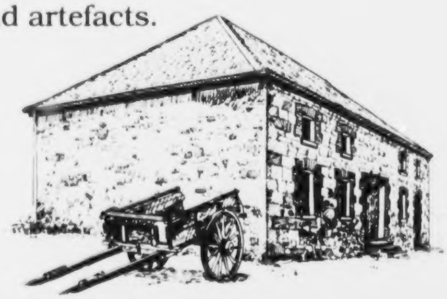
Making the most of your visit

The following educational materials are available on Maria Island or from the Department of Lands, Parks & Wildlife, 134 Macquarie St, Hobart, 7000 (Telephone (002) 308011).

- *Historic Darlington – discovering the history* (pamphlet)
- *Fossil Cliffs circuit walk* – history/geology ramble (pamphlet)
- *Painted Cliffs marine walk* – marine environment (pamphlet)

Materials available from Education Office, Maria Island

- Maria Island Photoprint set
- *Bishop & Clerk trail guide – mountain walk* (pamphlet)
- *Reservoir Circuit trail guide – bush walk* (pamphlet)
- *Marine Ramble* (pamphlet prepared by Rosny College Marine Biology students)
- Slide-talk. An automated slide-talk has been developed for the use of school groups. It covers history, natural features, flora and fauna and the role of the Rangers. Arrangements for its use can be made with the Education Officer or the Ranger staff.
- Commissariat Store display. An orientation display is available for your use. Arrangments with the Ranger staff or Education Officer can be made on arrival.
- Chapel display of original photographs and artefacts.



What to bring to the island

Clothing

No matter what the time of the year, don't come without wet weather gear, warm jumpers and good solid footwear. Maria Island has a mild East Coast climate, but its weather is very changeable and rainfall is evenly distributed throughout the year. In the warm months sunscreen lotions can be very important.

Cooking

Many school groups bring gas stoves for cooking. A picnic shelter with free gas barbecues and seating for large groups now makes this optional. If you have doubts about menus, cooking or food storage, phone the Education Officer for advice and contact with groups whose menus are well-planned and thoroughly tried.

Supplies

No shops and no cold storage facilities are available on Maria Island. For a four-night stay, this does not necessarily mean using 'hikers' food. A great variety of successful methods and menus have been developed by regular school visitors. Many are willing to share their catering lists.

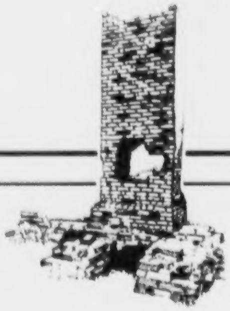
Remember to have a little extra food on hand. Sometimes high winds or rough seas can delay departure times, and an extra few meals may be needed.

First-aid

First-aid equipment and a trained 'first-aider' are important on excursions such as this. Maria Island is isolated from doctors and hospitals. If you are out walking, even the Ranger may be some walking time away, so it is advisable to carry a first-aid kit at all times.

Rangers are trained in first-aid, and have access to specialist equipment and emergency transport. Contact them in event of an emergency.

Maria Island's relaxed atmosphere has been responsible for lapses in supervision in the past. Areas such as the Fossil Cliffs are potentially very dangerous. At night, areas around Darlington are hazardous because of unfilled holes and trenches from past activities.



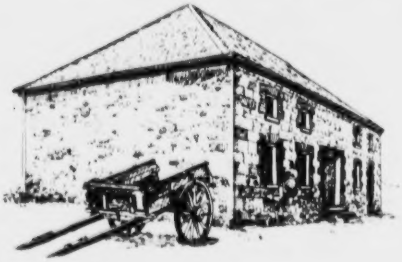
Your arrival on the island

On the jetty at Darlington are two hand trollies for the transport of equipment and luggage to the campsite or indoor accommodation. If students carry their personal belongings in back-packs, communal equipment such as food, cooking gear and tents, should easily fit into the luggage trollies.

Reception is at the Commissariat Store just a short distance from the jetty. The receptionist on duty will provide necessary information, arrange for park etiquette talks to be given by a Ranger and for contact to be made with the Education Officer who will provide resources and advice and deal with day-to-day organizational problems.

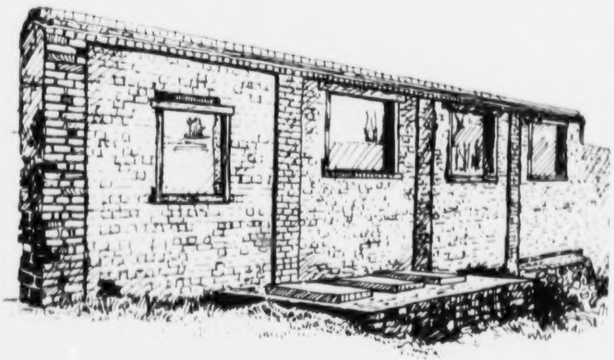
The Rangers on Maria Island give park etiquette talks to all school groups visiting the island. The aim is to provide a positive description of the desirable behaviour which should be observed in a National Park — with an emphasis on the special aspects of Maria Island. Among the points stressed are:

- the historical significance of the Darlington area — how carefully it must be treated to survive for future visitors;
- the island's 'no feeding of the animals' rule — and the reasons for its introduction and enforcement;
- the limitations on basic resources — the necessity for conserving water and firewood;
- fire — the damage it can cause in areas such as this.

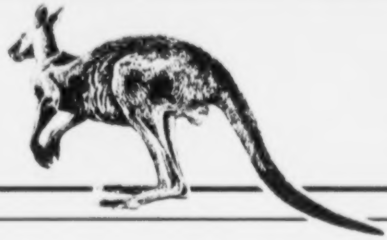


Pre-visit activities

1. Read the brief history of Maria Island and discuss the time-line. Display the map of Maria Island.
2. Find out how the Aborigines used to travel to Maria Island. Draw or model the reed canoes they used. Explain to your class how the canoes were built.
3. Draw a large display map showing Maria Island. Show the main points of interest.
4. Research how Maria Island got its name.
5. Create a display to show the animals and birdlife that can be seen on Maria Island.
6. Imagine you are a group of settlers planning to settle Maria Island. There is no electricity on the island, no regular ferry and no shops.
   - What would you take with you?
   - What kind of skilled tradespersons would you take?
   - What things would you have to make for yourselves on the island?
   - How would you communicate with the mainland? What alternative methods could you find?
7. Design an advertisement recruiting fellow-settlers to Maria Island.



On-site activities



1. Map of Darlington

Use the map to help students orientate themselves.

2. Photoprints

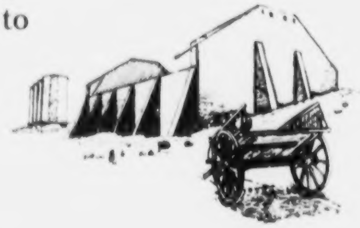
These photos have been selected from the NPWS photographic collection. It is made up of copies of archival material combined with copies of photographs loaned by ex-residents of Maria Island and their families. New information and photographs are welcome. Please contact the Education Officer if you have photographs or documents that might add to our knowledge of Maria.

The photographs included in the kit were chosen to give glimpses of each period of occupation. Darlington was a living township — with people who experienced triumph and failure, joy and sadness, fun and hardship. It is hoped that the photographs, historical documents and anecdotes will help breathe a little life into Darlington's history.

Suggestions for use

The orientation map on page 3 shows photoprints grouped according to individual buildings around the site. This allows students to be divided into groups and allocated sites and photographs to examine. Students can record responses to such questions as:

- From where was this photograph taken?
- What changes have taken place?
- Can you suggest possible causes for the changes?



3. Additional on-site activities

(a) Make a video to show the history of Maria Island. You could present the program to other classes on your return. You will need to research and plan the program carefully.

(b) Record a video interview with Mr Bernacchi or one of his sons or daughters.

(c) Role-play the Bernacchi family's discussion when Mr Bernacchi first decided to settle on Maria Island.

(d) Keep a diary of your stay, mention new experiences, and describe things you didn't expect.

(e) Write some poems and short stories about the ruins at Darlington. Your teacher will help you with some ideas.

(f) Compare your life on Maria island with the kind of life you live at home. What is the same? What is different? What problems are there for you on the island? Here are some headings to help you compare:
  travel
  shopping
  washing
  cooking
  night-time
  entertainment
  medical help
  keeping warm
  animal life

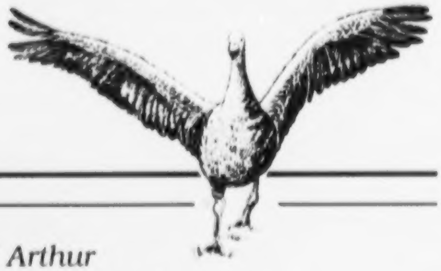
(g) Organise a photo-trail around Darlington. You'll need an instaprint camera. Compile questions for others to answer about the mystery 'spots' shown in the photographs.

(h) Video an interview with a convict, Mr Bernacchi or an Aborigine who has seen a white person for the first time.

(i) 'Go back in time'. Put away your watches and radios — imagine you're a convict or an Aborigine or an early settler. Perhaps you could use one of the buildings as a setting in which to role-play an incident in the life of Maria Island. Your teachers will be able to help you create an incident for role-playing.

(j) Make use of the Lands, Parks and Wildlife activity booklets.

Follow-up activities



1. Research the convict system. Consult the *Port Arthur* materials (Education Department of Tasmania, 1987) and other books in your school library.
2. Why might a settlement fail? Why did the Maria Island settlement fail?
3. Develop a Maria Island display or frieze for your classroom. Draw the main buildings and display your diary extracts, poems, short stories and research.
4. Discuss nineteenth century attitudes about crime and punishment. Have we become more humane in our treatment of criminals?
5. Make up your own board games on the history or natural environment of Maria Island. Your board game could be based on the snakes and ladders game, or you might want to bring in questions that the players have to answer correctly.
6. Publish a class book of your photographs, poems, short-stories and research findings.
7. Present your video program to other classes or to parents and friends.
8. Choose a domestic item such as butter or bread and find out how it was made in earlier times. Possible items to research include:
    - wheel-making
    - flour-making
    - bread-making
    - shoe-making
    - candle-making

A brief history of Maria Island

Aborigines

The first inhabitants of Maria Island were the Tasmanian Aborigines. Their visits to the island could have begun as long as 30,000 years ago, when it is thought they first arrived in Tasmania. We can tell they visited Maria Island over a fairly long period of time because of the shell middens and other camp-site remains they left about the island. The number and size of the middens tell us that the Aborigines must have been coming to Maria Island for a long time.

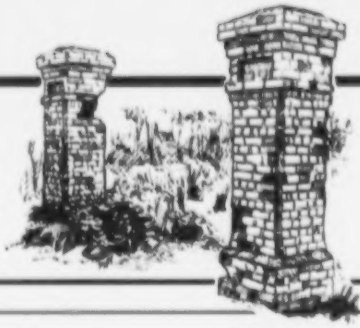
The Aborigines used canoes made from bundles of reeds to cross from the Tasmanian mainland. The same kind of reeds can still be found in the lagoons in the south of Maria Island.

Another attraction for the Tasmanian Aborigines was the ochre which could be found at Bloodstone Point. They used the ochre to decorate their bodies and colour their hair, and also to produce paintings on bark.

Explorers

Many famous explorers wrote about Maria Island in reports of their exploration.

Abel Tasman, the Dutch explorer, was the first European to mention Tasmania's east coast. In 1642, Tasman named Van Diemen's Land in honour of Anthony Van Diemen. (Van Diemen was governor-in-chief of the Dutch East India Company in what is now Indonesia.) A few days later Tasman sailed up the east coast and sighted and named Maria Eylandt in honour of Van Diemen's wife.



Tobias Furneaux was captain of the ship *Adventure* which accompanied Captain Cook's *Endeavour* in 1773. They became separated when Cook sailed towards New Zealand and Furneaux sailed towards the east coast of Van Diemen's Land. He sighted Maria Island in that same year.

Captain James Cox was the first Englishman known to have landed on Maria Island. He arrived in 1789 in a brigantine called the *Mercury*, after which Mercury Passage is named. He sent men ashore for wood and water and they met a group of Aborigines.

Captain Cox's arrival on the island was almost by accident. He sailed towards Van Diemen's Land from the west, and sighted land at a point near South West Cape on 3 July 1773. He anchored in a deep bay and sent ashore for water, but a storm blew up so they had to put back out to sea. They sailed for three days and imagined they were working their way into Adventure Bay (Bruny Island). However, when they arrived they discovered they 'were among the Maria Islands'. So Mistaken Cape was named.

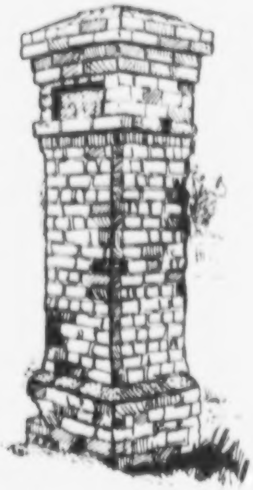
But Cox wasn't the only navigator to have been confused by Tasmania's indented coastline — Furneaux and Captain Cook also seem to have been confused. Furneaux thought Tasman Peninsula was the Maria Island named by Tasman. In 1777, Captain Cook gave what he thought were the correct bearings for Adventure Bay — in fact they were those of Maria Island. Cox's name of Mistaken Cape was not given without good reason.

Nicholas Baudin led a French voyage of discovery and exploration which visited the island in 1802. Members of this group spent about ten days in the area, charting the island and recording the scenery, people and animals in writing and drawings.

James Kelly on his voyage around Van Diemen's Land in 1815-16 reported seeing Aborigines on the island. He also reported fresh water and good soil. This favourable report was part of the reason why it was later chosen as a convict station.

Indeed, in later years, Maria Island was to earn fame in England for the size of a giant turnip grown on the island. This is what the *Norfolk Chronicle* had to say in 1841:

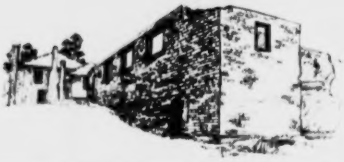
> 'We have occasionally heard of a turnip of such luxuriance of growth that a hare, a brace of partridges or a pheasant have conveniently found stowage within its ample substance. We have not yet heard of the carcase of a sheep being similarly accommodated. Such however, might be literally the case with respect to a turnip now in the possession of a clergyman... in Norfolk, which is certainly one of the most extraordinary vegetable productions ever witnessed in this country... The turnip in question... was grown in Maria Island, Van Diemen's Land and carefully packed in strong brine by which it has encountered the long voyage in a good state of preservation. Its weight is 84 pounds, girth 5 feet 2 inches...Upon its receipt in this country, it was carefully unpacked in the presence of several agriculturalists, and immediately weighed and measured.'
>
> Note 84 pounds = 38 kg. Five feet 2 inches = 1.5 m



Convicts

By 1815 the convict settlement at Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's West Coast was overcrowded. It was decided to set up a new settlement. Maria Island was the place chosen.

Lieutenant Peter Murdoch was the first commandant. He was sent to the island in charge of some guards and fifty convicts. After a few months he was replaced by Major Thomas Daunt



Lord. During his time in charge, Lord built the Commissariat Store, the Reservoir, the Penitentiary and the jetty. The Penitentiary alone used 200,000 locally made bricks.

Commandant Lord kept the convicts busy during his time on the island. During the 1830s, the following items were manufactured at Darlington:

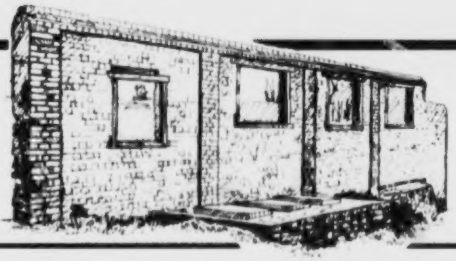
Blankets	296	
Cloths	684	yds
Mens' shoes	200	prs
Coloured cloth	2016	yds
Mens' shoes	500	prs
Mops with handles	50	
Mens' shoes	220	prs
Coloured cloth	1382	yds
Mens' shoes	300	prs

In addition, convicts were kept busy as sawyers, blacksmiths and brickmakers.

Daily routine

The prisoners' daily routine began when they were mustered together for prayers at 5am. At 7.45am they were again mustered, this time for breakfast in the mess-room. At 8.45am they returned to work and worked through till noon when they stopped for lunch. Work resumed at 1pm and continued until 5pm when work ceased for the day. Between 5 and 6 they ate a light tea or supper. From 6pm until 8pm the mess-room was used as a schoolroom. At 8pm convicts were returned to their dormitories for the night.

However, Maria Island's first convict settlement was to be short-lived — in 1830 Port Arthur was opened. The Govern-



ment of the day preferred Port Arthur because it was closer to Hobart, and convicts were less able to escape.

The Maria Island convict settlement was reopened ten years later in 1842 when Governor Arthur established his new Probation System. During this new convict period the Separate Apartments block was built. The Separate Apartments block increased the number of convicts who could be housed to nearly five hundred. Reports of the settlement at the time say it was well-built and well-managed.

In the 1840s, the laundry and wash-house was a large room built alongside the creek. Part of the creek was diverted to run through the room. The prisoners were marched there at five o'clock every morning, and washed themselves, 100 at a time. There was soap for each man, and a roller towel between every ten. The men were shaved on Mondays and Thursdays and convict washermen (one for every ninety prisoners) did the laundry on the same days.

Among those shipped to Maria Island during this period were five Maoris. Because of their involvement in the Maori uprisings in New Zealand, they had been tried by court martial and sentenced to transportation to Van Diemen's Land for life. With them came a request that they be put to hard labour.

The free population of Tasmania did not approve of this punishment. Governor Grey had declared martial law in New Zealand and most people thought that the Maoris were prisoners of war, not common criminals. Many newspaper articles discussed the Maoris' situation. The *Hobart Town Courier* of 28 November 1846 finally reported:

> 'A proposition has been suggested of placing them at Maria Island, under separate supervision of an individual many years a resident amongst the tribe and well acquainted with their language...'

And, according to the *Colonial Times* of 27 November 1846:

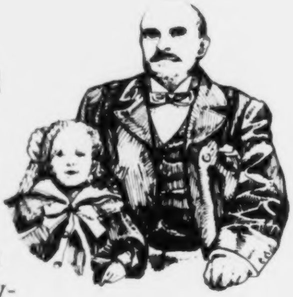
> '(steps should be taken to) instruct them in the English language, of which they are utterly ignorant, keeping them at the same time strictly apart from the other prisoners until an answer to a representation about to be forwarded to the Secretary of State be received...' *

Maria's second period as a convict settlement finished in 1850 when transportation was coming to an end and all remaining convicts were transferred to Port Arthur.

Many people wonder how convicts could have escaped from Maria Island. In the convict settlement records, one convict told of the canoe in which he had tried to escape:

> '... the canoe was made of one sheet of bark which was bent to the shape of a boat... stem and stern securely fastened with some pieces of iron hoop... we put some wattle sticks in for ribs and an old batten inside and out at the top sides of the canoe which we nailed together... we kept the canoe open by means of two cherry-tree stretchers and caulked several places that were split open with a pair of old trousers and clay. We were forced to bail all the way over...'

Diego Bernacchi



After the convict settlement was closed, the island was leased for farming. But in 1884 an Italian businessman named Signor Diego Bernacchi 'discovered' the island and decided it was the perfect place to begin wine and silk industries.

Bernacci's 'discovery' of the island was almost by accident. In 1884, a member of Tasmania's Survey Department was showing Bernacchi around Tasmania's East Coast. Bernacchi was looking for land. In the vicinity of Orford, Bernacchi's horse became lame and they were obliged to stop. While they were waiting, Bernacchi's companion suggested a day's shooting on Maria Island. They arrived on the island on a still, clear blue,

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* See page 32.

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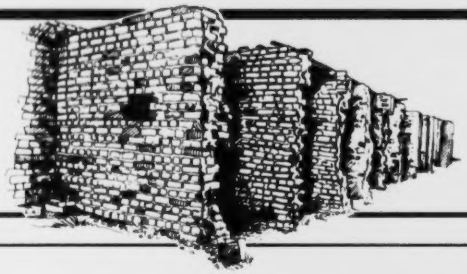


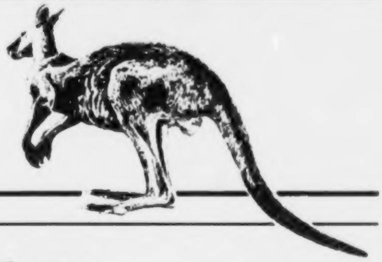
East Coast summer's morning. As they walked, Bernacchi detected the fragrance of ripe peaches. He cut his way through the undergrowth until he came to a tree laden with perfect peaches. He picked all he could carry and returned to his companion with the remark, 'The climate and soil which will ripen these are just right for the vine and the mulberry'.

The Tasmanian Parliament leased the island to Bernacchi for ten cents a year for ten years, providing that he spent $10,000 on development in each five-year period of his lease.

The thought of going to live on Maria Island seemed like a great adventure to the Bernacchi family. They pictured themselves like Robinson Crusoe becoming very healthy from living a life spent 'almost entirely in the open air'. To the children, who were used to living in a city, it seemed that life would be one unending picnic. They decided to take with them all the stores and animals they would need for food. So the ship which transported them carried dogs, horses, pigs, sheep, cows, bullocks, fowls, ducks, geese and turkeys — to cover all emergencies. When they arrived they found that, 'the walls of one or two houses were still standing, and in the corner of one of these, with blue gum leaves for beds, they camped at first, though it was not long before some sheets of iron were put on a roof, and doors and windows put in, to make one of the cottages habitable'.*

Under Bernacchi's guidance Darlington came to life again. All existing buildings were renovated and several new buildings were erected, including a spacious hotel, a coffee palace, a state school and a row of twelve cottages. Avenues of imported trees were planted to make the settlement more beautiful. The old convict dam was repaired and enlarged to improve the town's water supply.

*Quoted from *Maria Island: Its Past, Present, and Probable Future'* by 'Dio', published at *The Mercury* Office, Hobart, 1888.



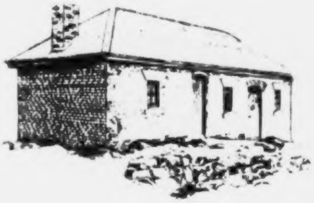
One of the stories of this time concerns a man named Thomas Bowers who had accompanied the Bernacchi family to Maria. He was employed as a private secretary. He was obviously as enthusiastic about the new lifestyle as were all of the Bernacchi family. Before they left Hobart, Thomas Bowers took one private lesson in 'the art of yoking bullocks', thinking it would be useful in the work to be done on arriving on Maria Island.

He offered to have a go soon after they arrived, to go to collect water in a cask. He successfully harnessed the bullocks, but unfortunately his lesson had not included the use of a stock-whip or the 'language' used to give orders to the bullocks — they decided he was just a new chum and galloped off into the bush. Thomas Bowers could only watch as the bullocks ran on bumping the cart and the cask against trees and stumps for as long as anything remained to be bumped. He then decided bullock-driving was a little more difficult than it had first seemed, and an 'old hand' was employed to keep control of the beasts.

In 1887 the Maria Island Company was set up to attract investment to the island. Investment was needed for several activities: wine-making, fruit-growing, agriculture, cement-making, limestone and marble-quarrying, fishing, sawmilling and sheep and cattle grazing. In 1888 it was estimated that the island had 5,000 sheep, 300 cattle and 50 horses.

Signor Bernacchi became a well-known figure in Tasmania. Newspaper articles of the time referred to him as 'King Diego', and to Darlington as San Diego. Some Tasmanians were suspicious and critical of Bernacchi's ambitious plans. His critics were openly sarcastic, as these extracts from *The Tasmanian Mail* show:

> News from Maria Island — or Toarra Marra, according to its far more euphonious name — tell us that King Diego is working wonders in his newly-acquired kingdom, to which Arcadia of



the Poets will be a mere howling wilderness. A splendid chalet-hotel is in course of erection, and all sorts of delightsome attractions are to be provided for the delectation of visitors, who will throng to that most divine of all climates in the hot Australian summer. Gondolas, with real live gondoliers, will flit o'er the calm and glassy phosphorescent water in the balmy summer evenings, while the trees along the lovely beach will be illuminated by countless Italian lanterns, making a magnificent promenade, enlivened by the strains of a fine band, numbering in its ranks Italian and Austrian performers, imported or raised on the island. Far away in the deep ravines and fastnesses real live Italian bandits and brigands will lurk in secret places, while bright-eyed Tuscan girls carry round the most luscious grapes grown in the vineyards of the king. And all this is to be ready early in the year. Could Ouida herself depict anything more enchanting?

Here is a hint for Colonel Booth: why not send a few shiploads of his reformed colonists to Maria Island to tend the vineyards and shepherd the silkworms. Here is a cup brimming over with joy for Signor Bernacchi, who, having a multitude of emigrants ready to hand, can at once set to work to develop the resources of his island without further delay. He already possesses a goodly company of Parthians, Medes, Persians and dwellers from Mesopotania, with a fair sprinkling of Calabrian brigands, Italian Mafias, Greek pirates, and pretty French grisettes. A few shiploads from darkest London would just make a delightful "blend".

By the way, talking of Maria Island, there are some suspicious rumours going the rounds, though only spoken of in whispered tones, and with bated breath, that some very important gold finds have lately been found in the dominion of King Diego. If so, things are being kept remarkably quiet, though that is nothing new in the annals of Australian and Tasmanian gold mining, and gold after all pays better than Portland cement, silkworms, or home-made wine. A strangely suspicious silent contentment exists down at the island just now. Why?

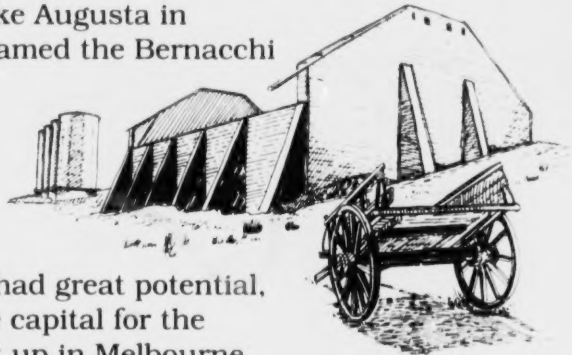
Despite all his plans, Bernacchi's Maria Island Company wasn't very profitable. After the Bernacchi family moved to live at Louisville in 1895, there was a gradual decline in activity on

the island. Soon after, the family home at Louisville was sold to pay rates owing, and eventually the family moved to London. A colourful and energetic period of Maria Island's history had come to an end.

But the family's contribution to Tasmanian life didn't end there. Signor Bernacchi returned to the island for a short time to help establish the National Portland Cement Company; and Diego Bernacchi's son, Louis, was later to be the first Australian to go to the Antarctic. Louis studied at Melbourne University and graduated as an astronomer, a meteorologist and as a magnetologist. In 1898 he travelled to England to join the 'Southern Cross' Antarctic Expedition as its physicist.

Later on, between 1901 and 1904, Louis was a member of the Antarctic expedition which was led by Captain Scott aboard the *Discovery*. Unlike Scott, Louis survived the ordeal and spent several years exploring South America and South Africa.

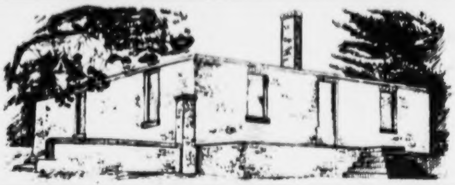
The Antarctic Division training base at Lake Augusta in Tasmania's Central Highlands has been named the Bernacchi Centre in Louis's honour.



Cement Works, 1920s

Bernacchi still believed that Maria Island had great potential, and was largely responsible for raising the capital for the National Portland Company which was set up in Melbourne with the aim of producing cement on Maria Island.

Work on the new Cement Works began in 1920, and again all buildings were renovated. By the mid-1920s production of cement had reached 30,000 tons per year, and Darlington was a busy township with a population of five hundred.



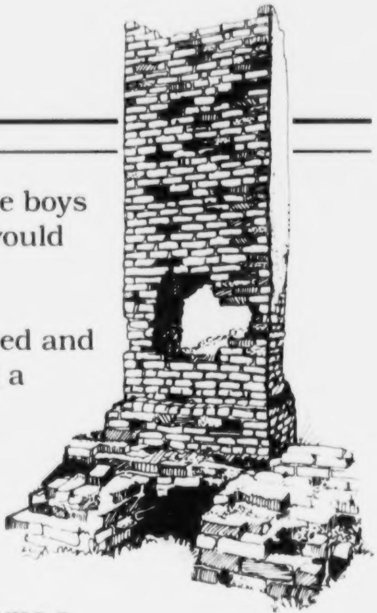
The big chimney-stack of the Cement Works was almost 65 metres high. It was built by a special method which used no scaffolding. As the chimney was built, metal rungs were built into the brick work. The workers building the chimney climbed up and down these metal rungs to work. Materials were hauled up the middle of the chimney itself. As the chimney slowly grew, a competition developed among the men — could they be on the ground before the lunchtime or knock-off whistle stopped blowing? This was fine at 10 metres or 20 metres — but at 65 metres? People who lived there in the 1920s declare they could do it!

Darlington during the 1920s was a lively little community — with its fair share of characters and stories. One local personality was a fellow called 'Tiny'. Tiny was the Darlington baker; he was well over six feet tall.

One story told about Tiny is of the time some schoolboys got together to plan a prank. They threaded cotton through a series of tin-cans and strung them from gatepost to gatepost, back and forth across the road which led up to Tiny's house at the other end of the 'Twelve Apostles'. When Tiny walked home from the bakery at around 2 or 3am that night, the neighbourhood was awakened by the clattering din of the tin-cans and Tiny's puzzled, angry yells.

Another story from this period features a formidable character called 'Auntie' Kalpfell. Auntie Kalpfell ran the Coffee Palace as a guesthouse for the VIP guests of the Cement Works Company. In those days, on the land between the Coffee Palace and Bernacchi's Creek, there was a wonderful orchard. In it grew mulberries, figs, bananas, passionfruit, medlar trees, several types of pear and plum, and down by the creek, an avenue of quince trees. Schoolboys and the workers from the single men's quarters used to carefully plan their night-time raids on the orchard. No-one wanted to be caught. Some boys found that even an imitation of Auntie Kalpfell's voice would frighten off the most grown-up raiders!

However, the new Cements Works' success was shortlived and the plant closed in 1930 — the island returned to being a quiet, isolated farming district.



Present day

After the Cement Works closed down, Maria Island became a forgotten back-water. Few people lived there, and the only visitors were fishermen or the infrequent tourists who came in by hired fishing boat.

In 1965 the Tasmanian Government began acquiring land, and in 1971 the whole island was declared a sanctuary. Various endangered animals and birds were introduced to the island. Those most often seen on the island include Forester kangaroo, Bennett's wallaby, pademelon, Cape Barren geese, and emu.

At present the island is managed by three rangers who live in Darlington. The island is popular with tourists, both with day visitors and with those who come to camp and walk the island's walking tracks and climb its mountains. Darlington is also a popular destination for school visits — both as a school camp for walking and outdoor activities, and as a centre for a wide variety of environmental studies.

Selected historical documents

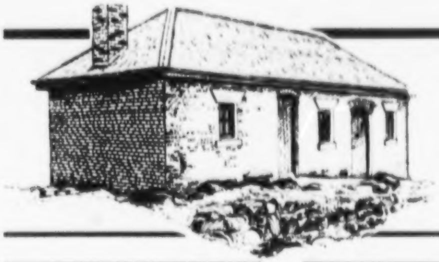
1. Lieutenant Mortimer on Maria Island, 1789

In 1789 Lieutenant Mortimer was a member of the crew aboard the *Mercury*. The brig was under the command of Captain Cox. On 7 July 1789 the ship rounded Tasman Head and was sailing north-eastwards:

> 'We kept working to windward all the night of the 7th, supposing ourselves nearly at Adventure Bay, where we proposed to anchor to procure a stock of wood, complete our watering, &c.; but at day-light found we had got farther to the northward than we had imagined, and that we were among the Maria Islands. At eight in the morning, the small boat was hoisted out, and our captain went on shore in her to the south west of us in search of fresh water, but returned without having met with any. I afterwards accompanied him and our second mate in the cutter to an Island to the north east, where we landed in a deep bay, with a fine white sandy beach. We soon found a small stream of fresh water; and having sounded the bay, and found a sufficient depth of water for the ship, made a signal for her to stand in and come to an anchor; which she did about three in the afternoon, in four fathoms, sandy bottom. Captain Cox named this Oyster Bay; it is quite land-locked, and sheltered from the wind in every direction, with a fine clear bottom. It lies in latitude 42° 42' South, and longitude 148° 25' East.
>
> Most of our people were now sent on shore to procure wood and water, which we soon found in sufficient plenty: the wood was in as great abundance as on the main land: and here were also evident marks of inhabitants, most of the large trees being hollowed out by fire, so as to form a shelter from the weather, and great quantities of shells heaped about them. I met also with a hut familiar in point of form to that I had before seen on the main, only this was constructed of the bark instead of the leaves and branches of trees. As the bark appeared to be newly peeled off, we were in hopes we should soon be gratified with a sight of the natives: and in this we

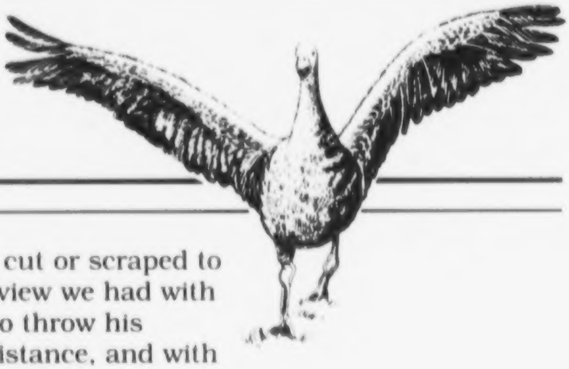
were not disappointed; for the cutter being on shore on the 9th, a smoke was observed on the opposite side of the bay from that where she was stationed. Our third mate immediately went in her towards it; and on landing, saw several of them moving off with pieces of lighted wood in their hands. he approached them alone and unarmed, making every sign of friendship his fancy could suggest; but though they mimicked his actions exactly, and laughed heartily, he could not prevail upon them to stay: he continued advancing, and they retreating, till they passed a marsh, and he was prevented from going any farther.

The next morning we again saw a smoke, nearly in the same direction as before, and proceeded as fast as possible to the spot. As we approached the shore, we observed several of the natives about the fire, and walking among the trees, some of them carrying very long poles and pieces of lighted wood in their hands. When they perceived we had landed, and were pretty near them, they began to chatter very loud and walk away; upon which we called to them, imitating their noise as well as we could, and had the satisfaction to see them stop at a little distance from us. Several of them having long poles or spears in their hands, we made signs to them to throw them aside, with which they immediately complied; and we in return put away our muskets. They now suffered us to come so near them as to take some biscuit, a penknife, and other trifles from us; but they took great care to avoid being touched. Some of them, indeed, would not accept of any thing unless it was thrown to them; and the whole party kept edging off by degrees. They seemed eager to procure every thing they saw; and had a great inclination for our hats. Mr. Cox gave one of them a silk handkerchief; and he threw him in return a fillet of skin that he wore tied round his head. The party which we saw consisted of about fourteen or fifteen men and women; but there were several more concealed among the trees: they were of a dull black, or ducky colour, with woolly heads. Most of



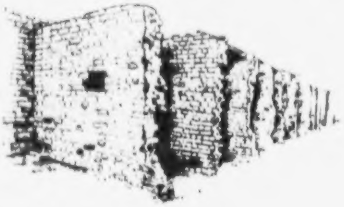
them were of the middle size; and, though lean, were square and muscular. We observed several of them to be tatowed (sic) in a very curious manner, the skin being raised so as to form a kind of relief; besides which, their bodies appeared to be daubed with a kind of dirty red paint, or earth. They were entirely naked, except one man, who had a necklace of small shells, and some of the women who had a kind of cloak or bag thrown over their shoulders; in which, I suppose, they carry their children, and what few moveables they possess. Upon the whole, they seemed to us to be a timorous, harmless race of people, and afford a fine picture of human nature in its most rude and uncultivated state. We spent some time in endeavouring to inspire these poor people with confidence; but though they appeared to be very merry, laughing and mimicking our actions, and frequently repeating the words Warra, Warra, Wai, they kept retiring very fast; and as we imagined they beckoned us to follow them, we attempted it for a little while, but soon lost them among the trees.

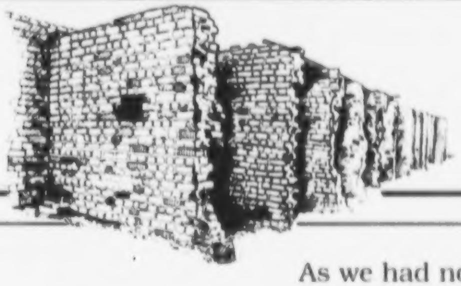
Mr. Cox having returned on board, our first and third mates and myself being willing, if possible, to see something more of these singular people, followed the track they had taken as nearly as we could guess. After having walked about a mile, we saw a smoke upon an eminence near a bay on the opposite side of the Island, and made all the haste we could to come up with it; but the natives had fled before our arrival: possibly they had been alarmed at the report of our fuzees (muskets), as we had fired several times in the course of our walk. We found they had kindled a large fire, and near it lay several little baskets made of rushes, in which were most of the articles we had given them, carefully tied up together, with a few flints and stones, and a little dried grass; from which circumstance I conclude they produce fire by collision: there were besides, three small buckets for holding of water, made of a tough kind of seaweed, and skewered together at the sides: these seem to be their whole stock of domestic utensils; and their only



weapon a rude spear, or lance, which is cut or scraped to a point at one end. Mr. Cox, at the interview we had with the natives, made signs to one of them to throw his spear, which he did, to a considerable distance, and with a good deal of force; but I cannot conceive them to be a dangerous weapon. After we had regaled ourselves upon some cold provision we had brought with us, sitting by the fire the natives had just quitted, we returned, leaving several articles on the spot for them, as it was likely they would soon return for the things they had left behind in their hurry.

We found a great number of paroquets in the woods, and a variety of small birds; some of them of a most beautiful and delicate plumage: there were besides, crows, exactly like those we have in England, and abundance of sea-fowl; particularly a large white bird, something bigger than a swan, with black tips to its wings, and an enormous-sized beak. most of these birds were very shy, so that we conjectured they were hunted by the natives. Though it was now the depth of winter in this part of the world, we found the weather very mild and pleasant, the thermometer keeping from 51 degrees to 56 degrees during our stay here. Most of the large trees were in full verdure, and a number of elegant little shrubs in blossom. The large trees are all of one species, and different from any I have seen before; they have a leaf resembling the willow, are very straight and lofty, and some of them grow to a great size. The other trees are chiefly of the fir kind; of which there are some beautiful varieties. I picked up a large quantity of wild parsley while we remained here, which we ate in salads, and found it very acceptable. We did not procure any fish here with our hooks and lines; and thought it very extraordinary that though we saw such a prodigious number of oyster and other shells scattered about in every direction, we could not obtain any with the fish in them: certain it is, that the natives procure them in abundance; but whether by diving for them, or by what other means, I cannot say.





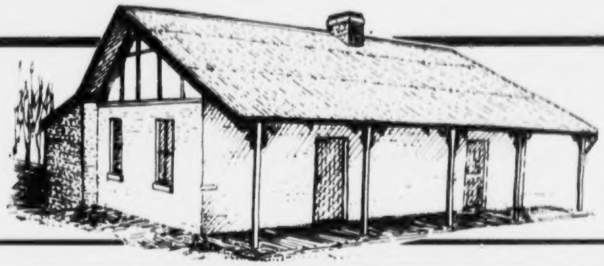
> As we had now got a sufficient stock of wood and water on board, and were ready for sea, all hands were sent on shore to wash their linen, and amuse themselves as they though proper. The next day, the 11th, we got under weigh, with a light breeze from the North North West, and sailed out of Oyster Bay by a passage to the southward, opposite to that by which we came in. At noon, Cape Frederick Henry bore South, distant ten or twelve miles.
>
> On the 15th, one of our gentlemen shot a Cape hen, which we made into a pye (sic), but found it very indifferent eating. We had now very fine weather, but light winds, so that we made but small progress.'

Reference: Lieutenant G. Mortimer, *Voyage in the Brig Mercury, commanded by John Henry Cox*, London 1791.

2. Thomas Lempriere, Commissariat Clerk, 1826

In May 1826, Thomas Lempriere arrived at Darlington as the Commissariat Clerk. He was to be second-in-command to the Commandant of the newly established convict settlement. Here are some extracts from the diary he kept at the time:

> Monday 15 May — It has been blowing a severe gale all this day and the sea been very rough... Heard a fine pelican was close in shore. Went with Cumming's gun, had a good aim but my piece missed fire and bird flew away — We have been busy all day moving into our new store...
>
> Wednesday 17 May — Finished moving into my new store. In the evening drank tea at Major Lord's. I intended coming home immediately after tea, but Mrs L. would not allow me to go — we sat down at whist... I do not like this whist every night, I get tired of it...



Saturday 27 May — Mr Meredith, who is to supply us with fresh meat, left this yesterday morning taking away seven prisoners assigned to him. Went on with my accounts. Mustered the Ordnance Stores and closed the evening at Mrs Lord's with a rubber. Beat the doctor at chess.

Wednesday 7 June 1826 — The boat went away this morning and brought home the men in the evening but they were unsuccessful and caught no kangaroo... the coxswain reports that the six men who escaped from here have got arms and are committing depredations in the neighbourhood of Pittwater. Waters, who started from hence on the 22 May, lost himself in the bush and did not get to town till Friday last.

Wednesday 8 November — Rose at 5, a beautiful day. One of the veterans has been robbed. George Say who has marched off appears to be the culprit. The two constables on duty were sent to gaol but released afterwards. Mutmard, the overseer of the carpenters, was not so fortunate, he got some spirits from the sergeant and got drunk — 50 lashes always made him sober...

Thursday 9 November — A lovely day, one of the veterans is appointed camp overseer and is to look at the tanyard, blacksmith and shoemakers, etc, which will relieve me much. There is some intelligence of Say who offers to return all on being pardoned...

Thursday 7 December — The doctor dined with us. The men are bringing in laths for Hobart Town opposite my store — little will the Governor think when he sits in a comfortable house, with a good ceiling to his room, how many drops of sweat that ceiling has caused the prisoners under him, many without shoes and four miles to bring the laths.

Saturday 9 December — I had an inspection of bedding in the afternoon, and was regaled with a fine display of fleas. The doctor drank tea with us.

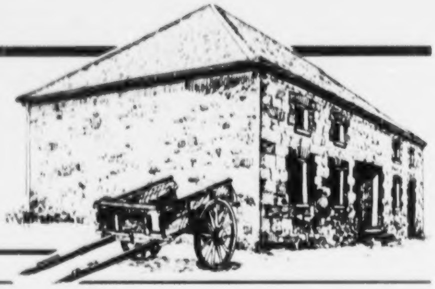
> Sunday 10 December — Major and Mrs Lord drank tea with us — whilst we were at tea young Meredith arrived with a supply of fresh meat.
>
> Saturday 17 February — Nothing of moment has occurred since Wednesday, except that yesterday my poor Edward killed one of Major Lord's ducks with a stone and in consequence received a correction a posteriori. My pigs have killed and eaten two chickens for Major Lord and as many for myself. I yesterday lost a fine rabbit and my stock now only amounts to 16.
>
> Tuesday 13 March — Major Lord moved into his new house. Mr George arrived with a supply of fresh meat. Dined and drank tea at the "house". Mr M. slept on my sofa.

Reference: Unpublished diary of Thomas Lempriere.

3. A Maori warrior's long journey home

In August 1988, members of New Zealand's Maori Community arrived on Maria Island to collect the remains of a Maori warrior who had died there in 1847. The article that follows appeared in *The Mercury* in August 1988.

> The recent return of a Maori warrior's remains to New Zealand from Tasmania did more than appease the souls of his living descendants. As Angela Leary reports, it concluded a cruel episode in the history of British colonialism.
>
> Hohepa Te Umuroa was young, proud, and fighting for his country in 1846. A year later he died a cruel and lonely death, an exile from his homeland, New Zealand.
>
> Hohepa was one of five Maoris transported to Tasmania



in November 1846 for alleged rebellion against the British. He was the only one of the 'convicts' never to return to New Zealand; Hohepa contracted tuberculosis on Maria Island and there he was buried in a windswept grave and forgotten for almost 140 years.

Not only was Hohepa banished from his homeland, but it was also with the knowledge that his homeland was gradually being taken from his people.

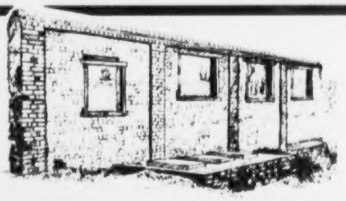
White immigrants, having settled the South Island in the first half of the 1800s, and established successful farms, headed north with the same intention. The North Island proved less hospitable. Thick forests made land clearance slow, but more of an obstacle were the Maori inhabitants.

The Maoris believed their land belonged to tribes rather than individuals, so the whole tribe had to agree before the land could be sold. Some new settlers, impatient with this system, decided to hasten the process by trying to buy land without the consent of the Maori elders.This angered the Maoris and they began to fight back against the intruders who were making a mockery of their culture.

The tension grew until, in 1845, Hone Heke, a Maori chief, led an uprising which marked the start of the Maori wars against the British. The newly-appointed governor, Sir George Grey, was sufficiently worried by the uprising to proclaim martial law on most of the southern part of the North Island, excluding Wellington.

Hohepa, at the age of 24, was one of the casualties of Governor Grey's proclamation. He was caught allegedly in possession of arms and 'tried' in a five-man court of military officers, without even the legitimacy of a civil court.

The tragedy of Hohepa did not end with his transporta-

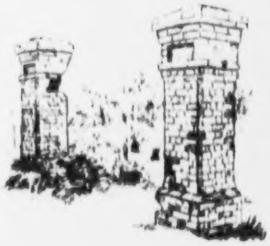


tion to Tasmania; nor did Governor Grey's harshness. When the five 'convicts' arrived in Tasmania, with them came a letter from Grey to the authorities:

'A great advantage would result to this country if these men were from time to time really kept to hard labour, and if they could be allowed to correspond with their friends, their letters passing through the Government of New Zealand. In this manner many of the turbulent chiefs would ascertain that the Government really intended to punish severely all those who connected themselves with murderers and robbers and would find from the letters of their friends in Van Diemen's land what the nature of the punishment of transportation really is.'

The administrators in Hobart ignored Grey's dispatch and decided to spare the men from the harsh penal colonies of Port Arthur and Norfolk Island. Instead, they were sent to Maria Island, where they were housed in a hut away from the other convicts.

Their daily movements are chronicled in a diary kept by the overseer of the Maoris at Darlington, Mr John Jennings Imrie. The diary also outlines Hohepa's death from tuberculosis. On April 19, 1847, Imrie wrote: 'Wet day — Hohepa complaining of pain in the side — ordered feet in warm water and a dose of the salts.'



His condition worsened along with the harsh winter weather and the diary entry on July 19 reads: 'At 4am visited the Maoris. Found Hohepa very nearly gone. At 5am he breathed his last without a struggle. 4pm put the body of Hohepa in the coffin — all the others were very sorrowful'. He was buried the next day during a ceremony conducted by Imrie in Hohepa's native tongue.

Some months later, Hohepa's compatriots were returned to New Zealand and little is known of their future lives.

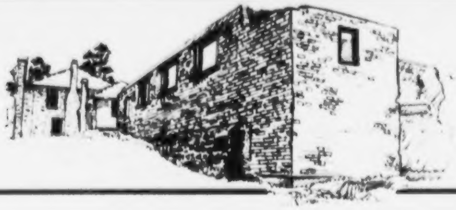
Hohepa's grave lay forgotten for almost 140 years, and it was not until it was brought to the attention of his descendants that moves began to have his remains returned home.

Three years later, after exhaustive negotiations between the New Zealand, Australian and Tasmanian governments, Hohepa was returned to his native North Island home of Wanganui, and to a traditional Maori burial.

4. Diego Bernacchi's Maria Island Company, 1888

Diego Bernacchi had great confidence in the future of Maria Island. The Maria Island Company, of which he was the managing director, had a wide range of natural products to sell. In 1888 the company sent samples of the Island's products to the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition. Here is a description of the goods they exhibited.

> In **Building materials** they show Portland cement, manufactured on the island; samples of ground hydraulic lime taken from the quarry which supplied that used in making the reservoir in 1831; a portion of the brickwork taken from the bottom of the same reservoir, over which the water has flowed for nearly sixty years, which still shows extraordinary strength and tenacity; and a sample block of mortar, left by the convicts when making the reservoir... A large block of white Freestone, quarried on the island, is also shown, and the Tasmanian stone trophy (facing the Maria Island exhibits) has its base composed of the same stone. Small samples of marble and Freestone, and two large blocks of unpolished granite are shown, and the Maria Island Trophy has a base of white freestone, and an architrave of the same. This trophy is entirely the work of an Italian workman on the island, named Luigi Girenzi.
>
> In **timber** there are three half logs of green Blackwood, a small log of She-oak, a log of Silver Wattle, and one of Native Pear, all polished on one side, and six logs of green Blackwood, unpolished, a log of Blue



Gum cut from the piles of the pier, which are long, straight, and flawless; and samples of polished Dogwood, Musk, Myrtle, Sassafras, Eucalyptus, Oyster Bay Pine, He-oak, She-oak, etc.

An ornamental garden chair, made by an Italian workman on the island, contains 32 varieties of Tasmanian woods.

The fossils are represented by a rockery of fossils taken from the beautiful terraces and enormous fossil cliffs over 1,000 feet high, and by stalactites from the Maria Island caves. The rockery is ornamented with wild goats, which are very numerous in the neighbourhood of the cliffs, and shells collected on the beaches of the island.

Minerals are represented by specimens of gold, silver-lead, tin, manganese, ironstone, coal, and pipeclay.

The **fish** shown are specimens of the mutton-fish, smoked trumpeter, oysters, and beche-de-mer, all of which abound in the waters surrounding the island.

In **Botany**, there is a collection of ferns and moss.

The **Wine-making industry,** through as yet in its infancy, is represented by wines of this year's vintage, comprising Reisling, and Cabernet Sauvignon, or Mouton Rothschild. Within two or three years the Company expect to be able to claim the bonus of 2,000 pounds offered by the Government, when 5,000 pounds worth of marketable wine or silk is produced.

Black wattle bark from tanning, which is very plentiful, is shown, and some wallaby skins and rug.

Agriculture seeds, Indian corn, Egyptian lentils, various kinds of beans and peas, are exhibited. The root crops on the island are very large; the carrots weigh from 4lbs. to 6lbs., and turnips sometimes reach the weight of 80 lbs. One of the London papers, some years ago, contained a notice of the extraordinary weight of a turnip grown on Maria Island, which was sent to England, in a cask made expressly for it. This remarkable illustration of the fertility of the soil, reached the enormous weight of 100lbs.!

Twenty-four large photographs of places of interest in the island, taken by Mr. J. F. Echlin, also six copies, enlarged, from M. Peron's 'Voyage

du Georgraphe Naturaliste et de la corvette 'Casuarina' aux Terres Australes, 1802,' should give some idea of the many natural beauties of the island, and the numerous improvements made by the Maria Island Company.

Being in the track of the steamers which trade between Hobart and Melbourne, and between Melbourne and New Zealand, it is probable that it will shortly be made a port of call for these vessels (it has already been made a port of clearance), the largest of which can come alongside the pier. At present steam communication with Hobart is kept up by two steamers, which call weekly, and with Spring Bay by the Company's steamer 'Endeavour' daily, which connects with a coach running between Campania, on the Tasmanian Main Line Railway, and Spring Bay.'

Reference: 'Dio', *Maria Island: Its past, present and probable future*, *The Mercury* Office, Hobart 1888.

5. An Englishwoman visits Maria Island, 1889-90

In late 1889, Edith Warne, an Englishwoman, visited Maria Island. Her observations give us a glimpse of life on Maria Island a century ago. Her letters also present a vivid idea of what it was like to travel in Tasmania in the days before good roads and cars.

Maria Island Hotel
Maria Island
Tasmania
Christmas Eve, 1889

I don't suppose dearest Mother I shall ever write to you again from such an out of the world 'curous'(sic) place as this on Christmas Eve. Fortunately I am able to send a line in time for the English mail so take an opportunity of telling you a little about the island.
First of all of our journey hither. We started from Hobart

at 8 o'clock in the morning and left the train for coach about 9.30 at Campania. Being Christmas time there were several extra passengers and a great deal of luggage. The coach is rather peculiar, one part like a covered in van, then an outside seat along the front to hold double numbers almost, 6 behind and 5 on the box seat, one old man having to sit on the splash board with his feet on the horses,. They say the drive is one of the toughest in Tasmania. I should think so. Some months ago a bridge was washed away by the floods and at present the Tasmanians have not been energetic enough to rebuild it. Consequently, every day the coach and five has to ford a pretty deep fast flowing stream with the most horrible approach in the shape of a steep stoney bank. They make the men get down and wade over but the women have to stick to it. I just took hold of the back of the seat and did not look. Fancy with that enormous weight attempting it and the unearthly noises the coachman makes to cheer the horses — altogether an experience.

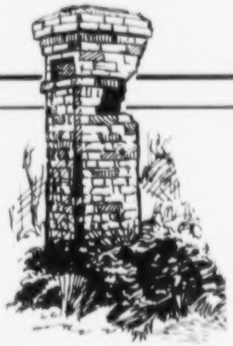
Well after this the road was fairly good for a little while and all very pretty but the rain came on steadily and kept on all day. After a bit the road got awful, deep ruts and holes and hills on the side of the precipes (sic??), sort of Switzerland driving. I will give you 3 of the names of the worst hills which pretty well describe their character — Burst My Gall, Break My Neck and Paradise. The latter runs through some lovely scenery on a high road overlooking a stream; it is called Paradise partly I think on account of its beauty and also on account of its dangerous nature as the whole coachload may be there (or elsewhere) at any moment.

We had a wonderfully careful driver and they say an accident is almost unknown. We arrived at our destination Spring Bay about 5.30 (a distance of 40 miles from our starting point) and then there was a steamer to take to the island. This is about an hour's steaming away. At first there was a fear that we should not be able

to get over until the next day, as a gale threatened every moment. However the skipper risked it and though we had a rough journey we just escaped the gale for we scarcely got to the little jetty before the wind howled around us. By this time we were very wet, tired and awfully cold but fortunately we were soon in the little Hotel and there we found kind souls and blazing wood fires and soon forgot our troubles.

Now I must tell you a little about this literally uninhabited island. Six years ago an Italian man and his wife by name Bernacchi landed here and having stayed 6 months asked permission of the government to live here (himself and family at that time the only inhabitants). Permission was granted and since then he has developed the island, planted vineyards, brought workmen from all parts of the world and finally discovered they could manufacture a very good kind of cement. Of course for this undertaking money was required so about 3 years ago the island was formed into a company with Bernacchi as principal shareholder. He is in reality king of the island, the only inhabitants are his workmen and the whole settlement consists of about 24 houses including the Hotel. This has lately been built on the Bungalow principle and is most comfortable. At present Harry and myself with the secretary of the company are the only guests and we are very well looked after and taken about by Signor Bernacchi and wife.

They were dining at Government House the night before we started here and the Governor very kindly mentioned us so we had extra attention. The island is very lovely and the air seems to be most perfect. They say the climate is like Nice, and they never have a frost and all the fruits grow in the open air. It is altogether very pleasant but my dear, how desolate I cannot describe to you. One is shut out entirely from everything; a little steamer comes over in the morning and evening from spring Bay but between that time there is no communication. I really don't think I could stand it if I

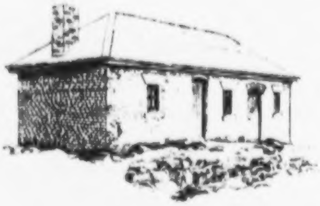


were little Mrs. Bernacchi, nice little woman, a Belgium (sic). Signor Bernacchi is rather a good looking man about 30 or as Alfred would say perhaps 40. He has absolute power here, if any of the people misbehave he simply sends them off the island.

Today we have made a most enjoyable trip; we took the steamer about 7 miles round the coast then landed for the men to get some duck shooting. While they shot I walked on the sand (such sands, firm and silver) and collected shells. They seemed to be wonderful, there were heaps of those large round mother-of-pearl ones like you used to have on your little cabinet in the back drawing room and the big twisted ones that we see so often on mantelpieces in back parlours. I brought home a tremendous collection that I trust will travel safely home with me but they are so fragile.

I have had such an extraordinary unreal feeling all day, it is quite impossible for me to feel it is Christmas. Partly the weather, partly the out of the way place but mostly the un-Christmas-like manner of the people. They none of them prepare for it as we do, in fact a great many of them want reminding of the season. I am in a way heartily glad of it as this is an island where there is no church or priest so I shall not have to attend the familiar service, for though I should dearly like to I am sure it would make me uselessly low spirited.

This island 40 years ago was a convict settlement and there are a few traces left of their work and some old cells and a book with some frightful records of the cruelty practised in those days.



The walking on the island is very rough as you may imagine and I have almost worn out my Melbourne boots, fool that I am I never brought my clod hoppers, the very place I should want them.

Christmas Day. Thanks to Harry's thoughtfulness I

received this morning Clara's kind Christmas letter and a card from my cook. I never expected anything here and it was a very great pleasure. Visitors arrived last night, South Australians, old man, wife and great big Australian daughter about 13, who like the rest of this polite colony did nothing but stare at me all breakfast.

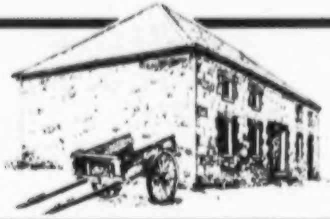
With special love and kisses for your dear self
ever your loving daughter Edith Warne.

Pressland House, Hobart
January 1st 1890

My dearest Clara,
Let me begin by wishing you all a very happy New Year. We returned from Maria Island last Monday and really enjoyed our visit, it was so free and easy and we were out in the air all day long — and such air.

Boxing Day was a regular scorcher with a hot wind and we went for a day's fishing with the Bernacchis. There was not much breeze but plenty of roll. Mrs. Bernacchi and the 3 boys began being ill, fearfully ill, almost directly and kept it up all day. We were obliged to land them on the rocks where they remained until our return. The fishing was great sport, you pull up the fish as soon as the line reaches the bottom. What do you think I caught: a young shark weighing about 12 lbs., of course they killed him. We lunched on the rocks and returned about 4. On the way back I left my lunch with the fishes and then felt all right — it was more than anyone could stand watching and hearing all the others.

Our journey back on Monday was accomplished in the most perfect weather which quite made up for our journey there. The perilous road did not seem so bad to me. I suppose I knew what was coming but that Paradise road is very alarming to look at. The most amusing thing



about the road are the various mails, they are left in the oddest places. In the bush there are several trees with a little box attached and the guard or boy jumps down, leaves the mail and runs on again. Sometimes it is left by the roadside or just under a stone.

Today Harry and I have driven to Brighton races, such a funny little comfy place about 16 miles from here. I enjoyed the drive which was very pretty but the sun was too much and not a leaf of shade anywhere on the Course.

Reference: Judith Middleton, *A Brighton Lady in Tasmania*, (containing the letters of Edith Warne 1889-90).

6. A time of pride and optimism for the island's cement industry, 1926

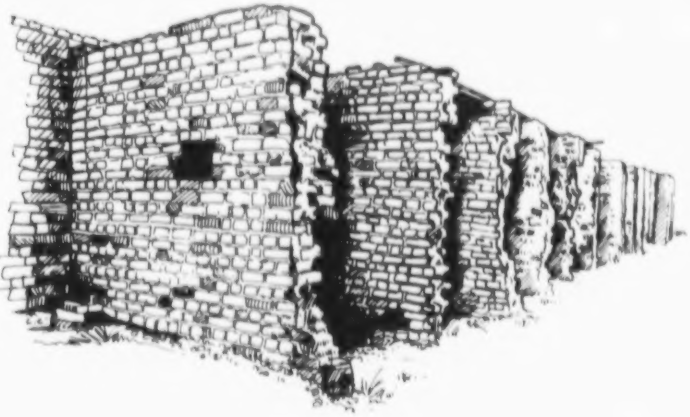
Maria Island Cement Machinery For The New Works: Smart Unloading

The S.S. *Cooee* left Hobart at midnight on the 19th Feb. for Maria Island, where she berthed at the company's new jetty at noon, without the slightest trouble or danger. An hour afterwards the discharging of the 1,600 tons of machinery commenced, and was completed within 30 hours. Considering that many of the lifts exceeded 10 tons, this rapid unloading is regarded as a record. A special gang of hatch hands and winchmen joined the ship at Hobart, and did excellent work. The arrangements on the jetty at Maria Island had evidently been remarkably well made, for as fast as the machinery was dumped on the jetty it was conveyed ashore to the factory site with admirable precision. Captain Carmichael spoke in the highest terms of the fine organisation which enabled the four holds of his ship to be cleared so quickly. In no port in any part of the world had he seen such excellent work.

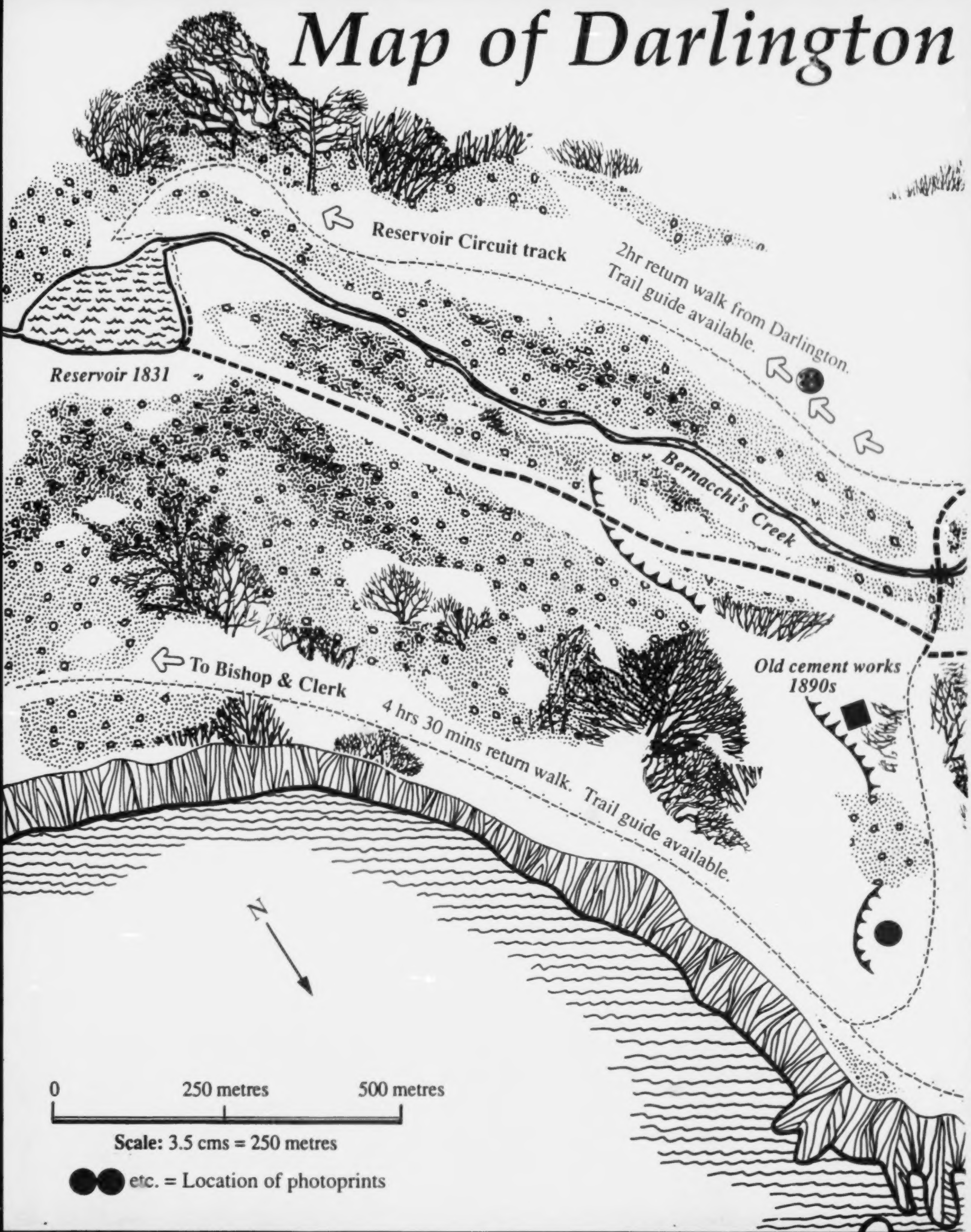
Captain Carmichael remarked that although he had taken his big tramp steamer to Maria Island with considerable trepidation owing to the unreliable information supplied to him by confreres at Melbourne and Hobart, he had no hesitation in saying that the conditions at Maria Island were so favourable that he hoped he would be privileged frequently to visit the port, which offered better facilities for safe shipping than very many other ports which he had entered. He was emphatic in his appreciation of the solidity of the new jetty constructed by the company, and also stated that in no port which he had visited had he observed such well-ordered alacrity in the handling not only of heavy machinery, but of ordinary cargo.

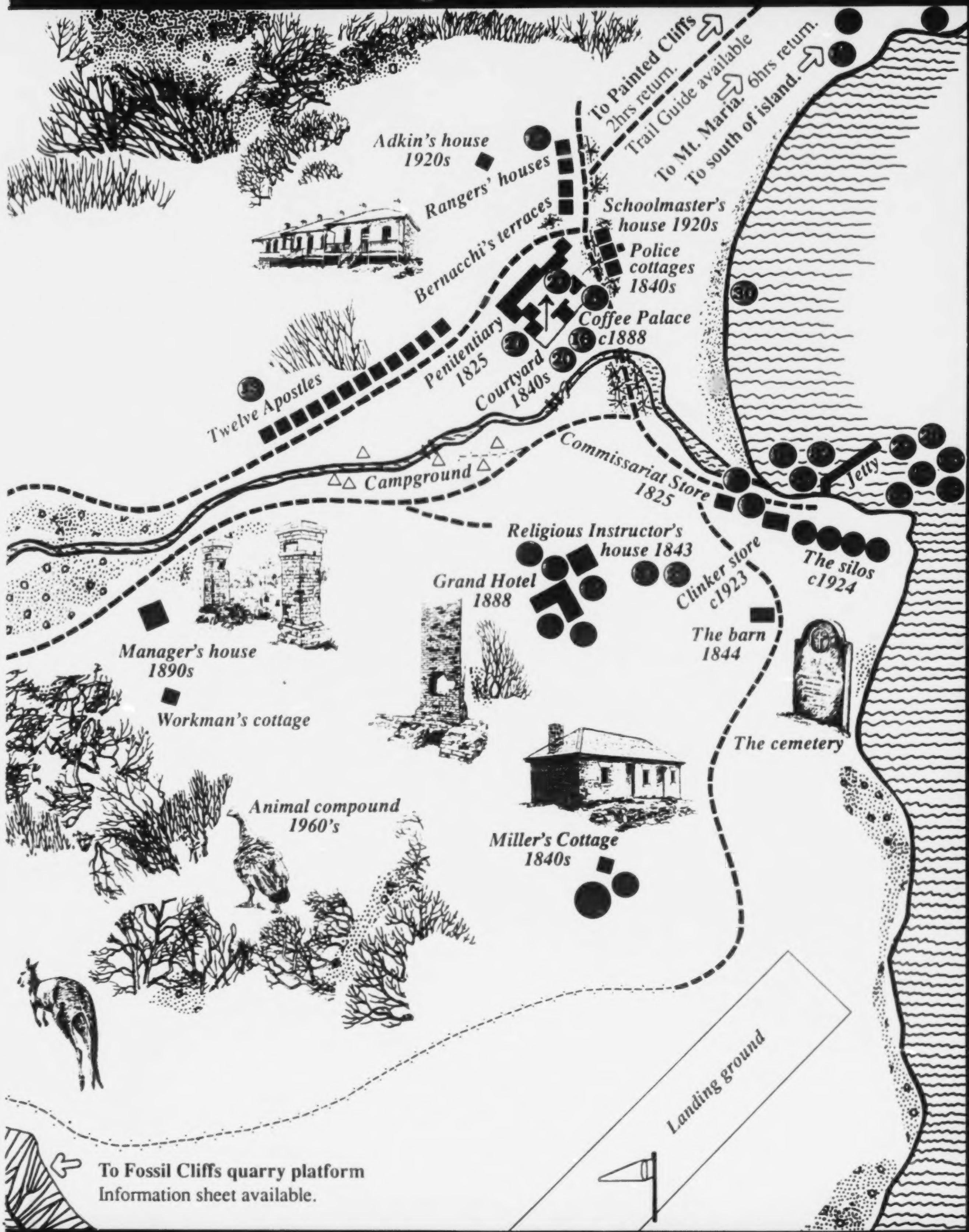
The arrival and discharge of the S.S. *Cooee* at Maria Island attracted a large number of visitors, who were greatly impressed by this important event in the history of a great enterprise on the East coast of Tasmania.

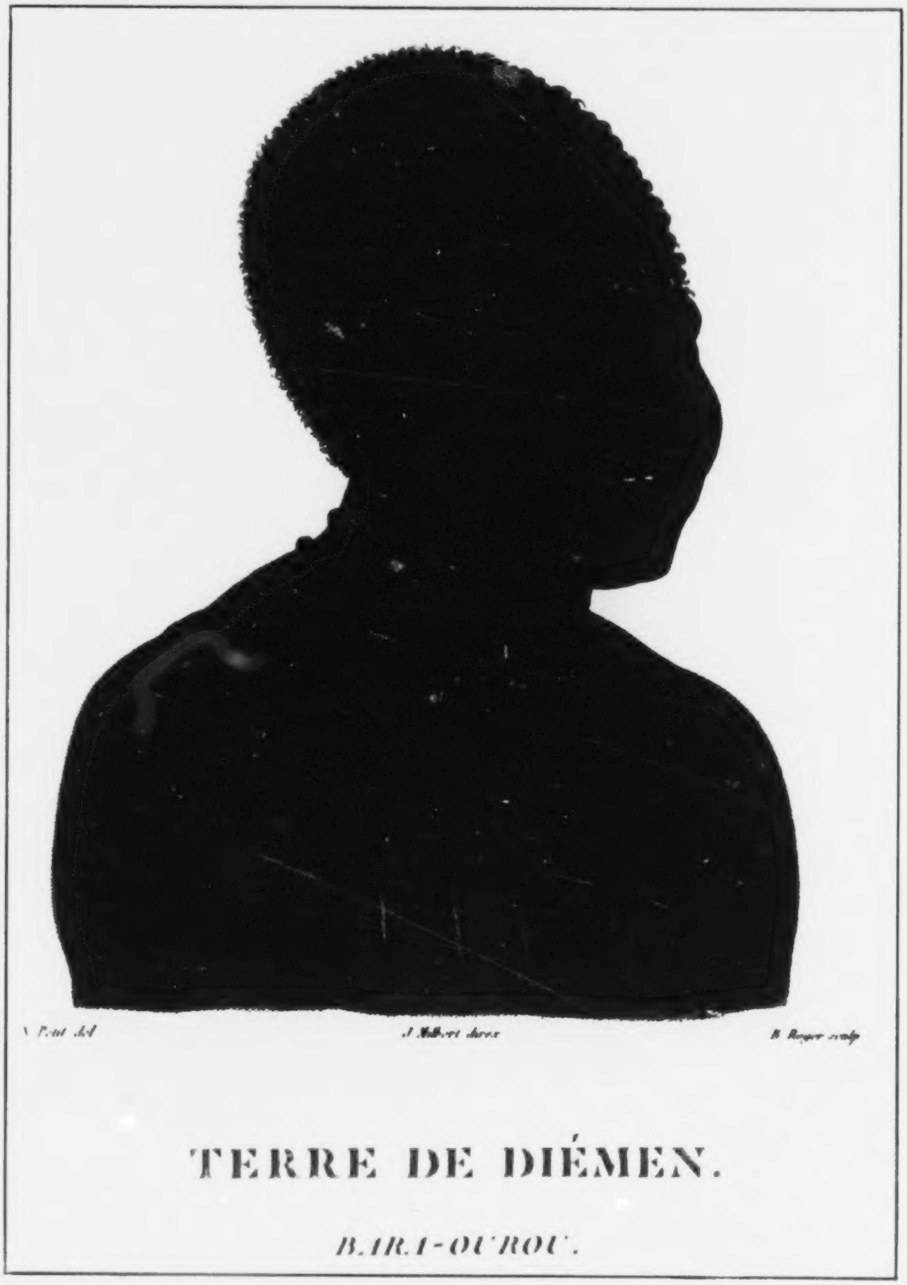
Reference: Hobart, *The Mercury*, 1926.



Map of Darlington


Reservoir Circuit track
2hr return walk from Darlington.
Trail guide available.
Reservoir 1831
Bernacchi's Creek
To Bishop & Clerk
4 hrs 30 mins return walk. Trail guide available.
Old cement works
1890s
N
0
250 metres
500 metres
Scale: 3.5 cms = 250 metres
●● etc. = Location of photoprints


To Painted Cliffs
2hrs return.
Trail Guide available
To Mt. Maria. 6hrs return.
To south of island.
Adkin's house
1920s
Rangers' houses
Schoolmaster's
house 1920s
Bernacchi's terraces
Police
cottages
1840s
Coffee Palace
c1888
Penitentiary
1825
Courtyard
1840s
Twelve Apostles
Campground
Commissariat Store
1825
Jetty
The silos
c1924
Religious Instructor's
house 1843
Grand Hotel
1888
Clinker store
c1923
The barn
1844
Manager's house
1890s
Workman's cottage
The cemetery
Animal compound
1960's
Miller's Cottage
1840s
Landing ground
To Fossil Cliffs quarry platform
Information sheet available.



1. *Portrait of a Tasmanian: Bara-Ourou*

Francois Peron was an anthropologist-naturalist with Captain Baudin's French voyage which visited Maria Island in 1802. This is part of his description of his first meeting with the Tasmanian Aborigines on Maria Island:

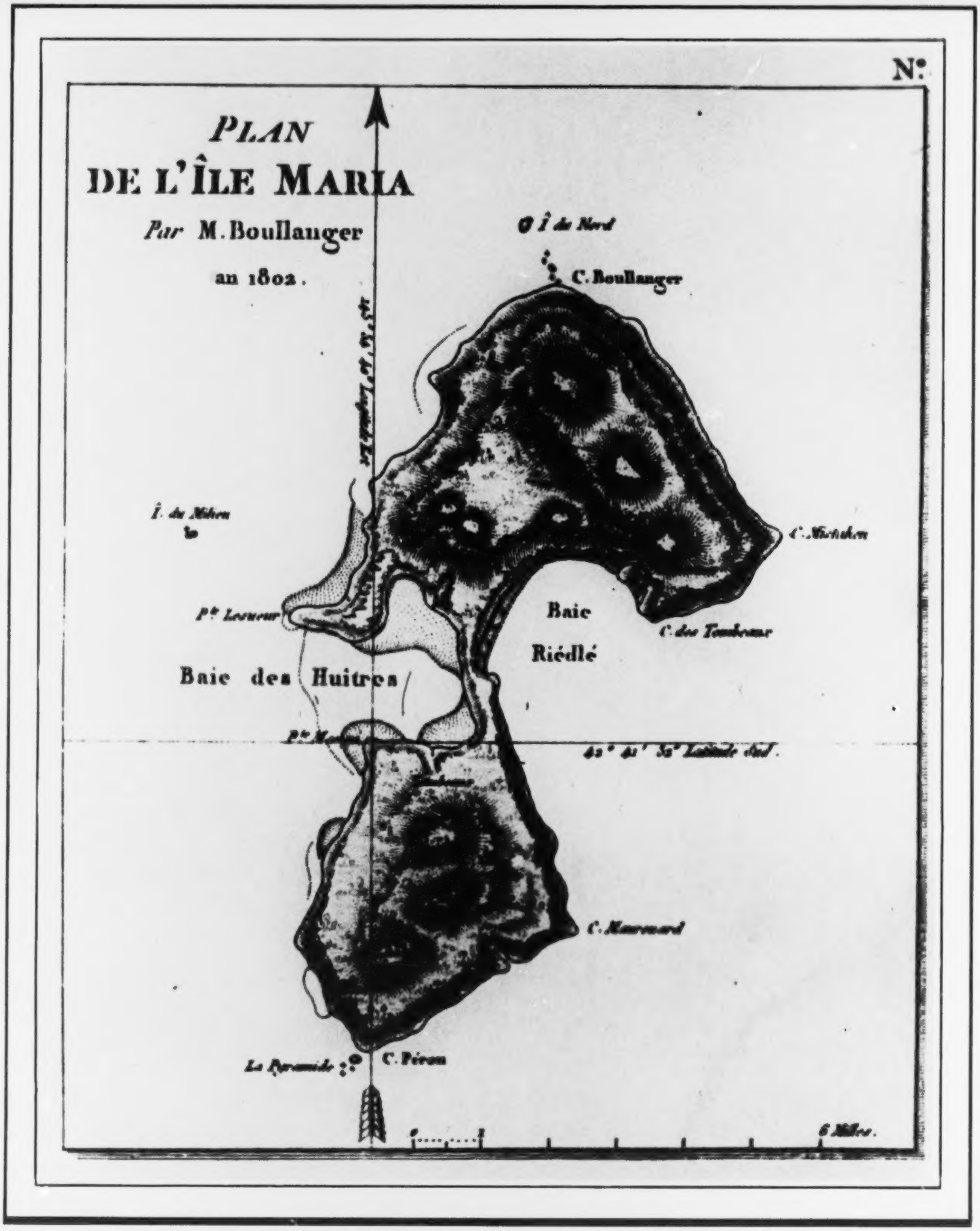
> The majority were young men about sixteen to twenty-five years of age ... varied between five feet four inches and five feet two inches in height. One only among them had his hair powdered with red ochre. This was a young man twenty-four or twenty-five years old named Bara-Ourou. He was of a much finer constitution than all the others ...

Points of interest:

- shell and woven-fibre necklaces
- body decoration
- tightly curled hair
- facial features

Question:

- Imagine you are a young Aborigine seeing a European for the first time. What might you find strange about his or her appearance and behaviour?

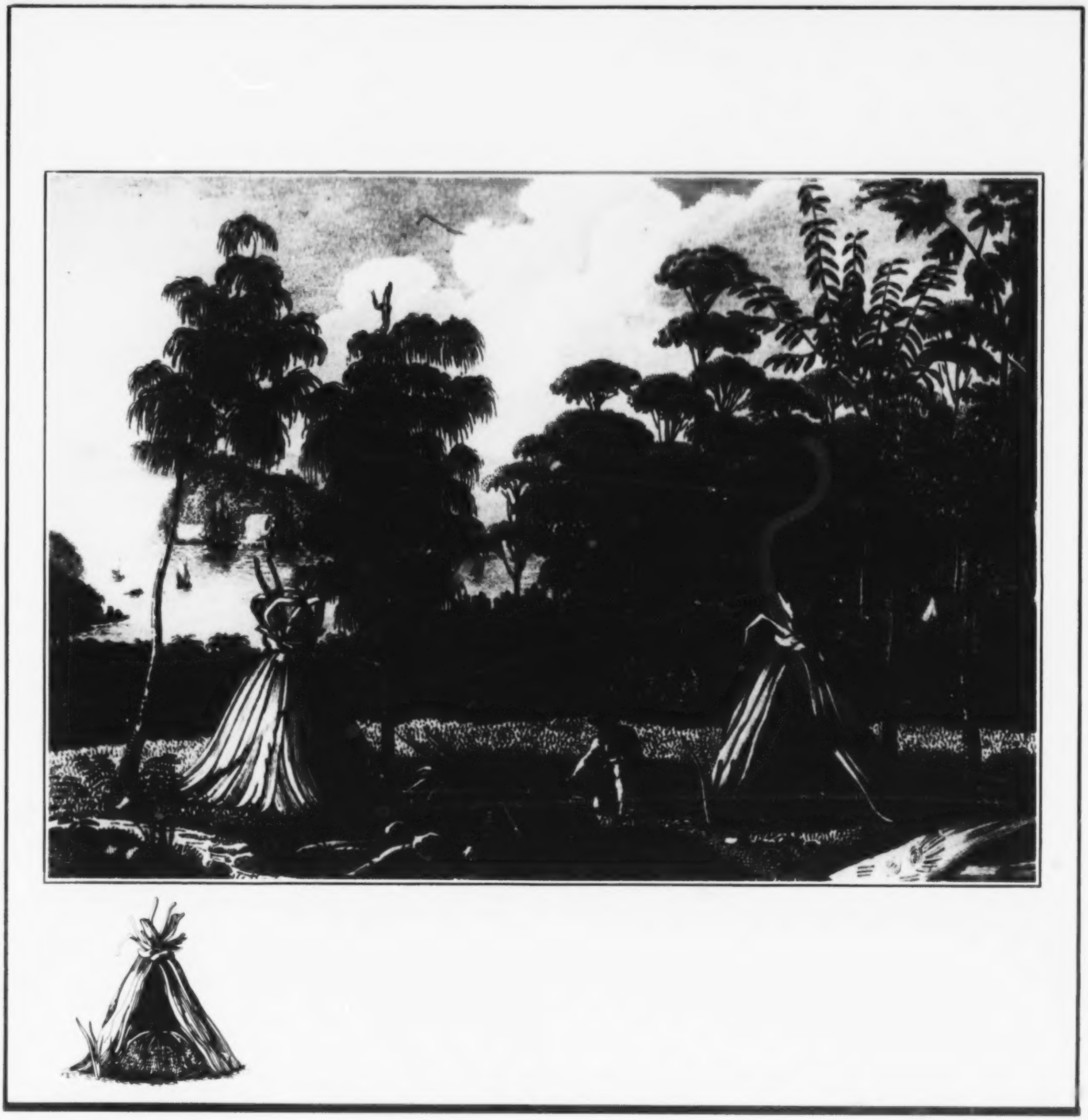

N°
PLAN
DE L'ÎLE MARIA
Par M. Boullanger
an 1802.
Î du Nord
C. Boullanger
Î. du Milieu
C. Mistaken
Pte Lesueur
Baie
Riédlé
C. des Tombeaux
Baie des Huitres
42° 41' 52" Latitude Sud.
C. Maurouard
La Pyramide
C. Péron
0
1
6 Milles.

2. *Map of Maria Island, 1802*

In 1802 Captain Baudin's French voyage of observation and research visited Maria Island in the ships *Geographe* and *Naturaliste*. Eight days were spent exploring, circumnavigating and charting the island. This map was drawn by a Monsieur Boullanger, who was an engineer-geographer on the expedition.

Points of interest:

- accuracy of the map
- French names from this map are still used today
- English names are from the Cox expedition of 1789



3. *Burial tombs, Maria Island, 1802*

Captain Baudin, leader of the French expedition of observation and research, described the tombs in his diary:

> One of the most remarkable things that we have, by a lucky chance, discovered, is the way in which they bury their dead. I am giving a picture of their tombs, but there is no doubt that they burn the dead and keep only the ashes and the ornaments that have not been destroyed by the flames. The two tombs ... provided us with a most surprising sight. We had first to dismantle a type of hut in the shape of a sugarloaf. The strips of eucalyptus bark, of which it was made, rested on four branches, each curved in a semi-circle and with one end planted in the ground. Under these four hoops, forming more or less an upturned basket, we found two or three layers of a type of fine grass very common on this island. After lifting this off, we found a heap of ashes ...

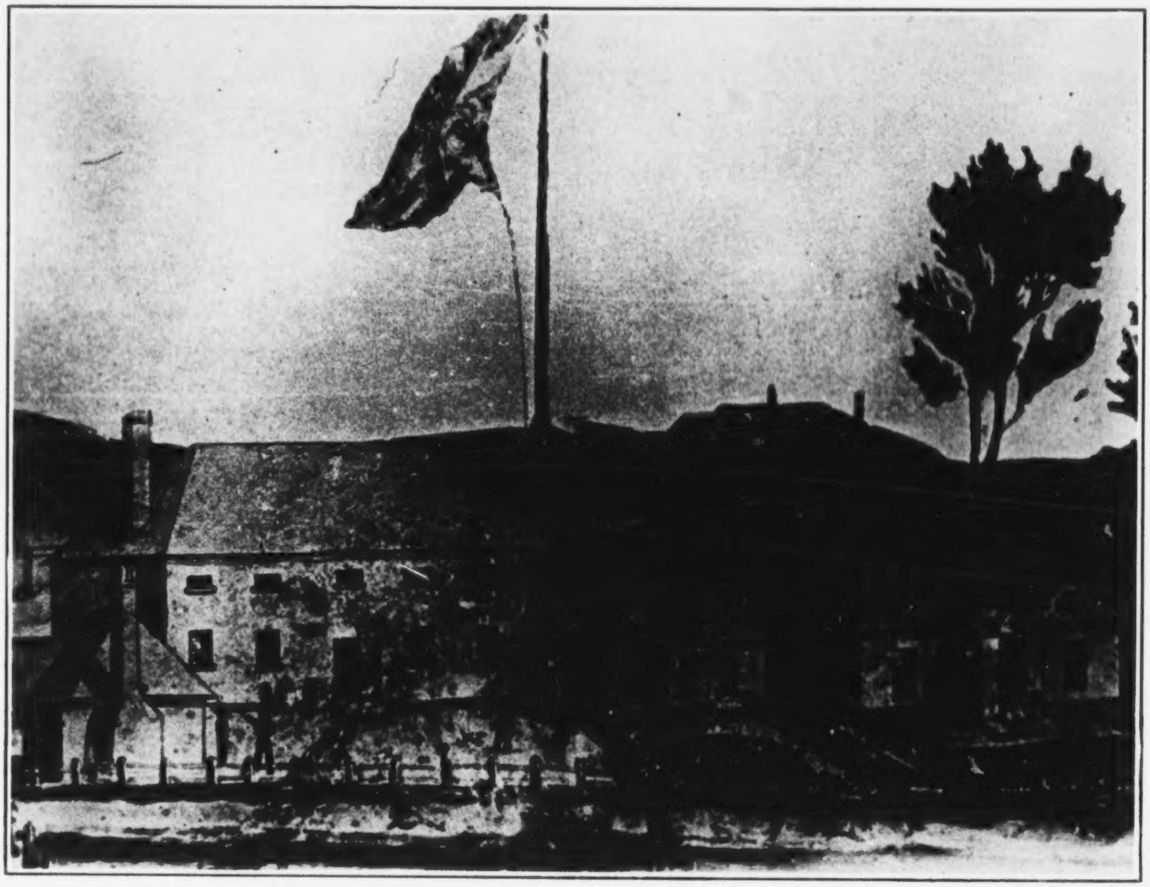
Diary of Captain Baudin, leader, French expedition of observation and research (1800-1890).

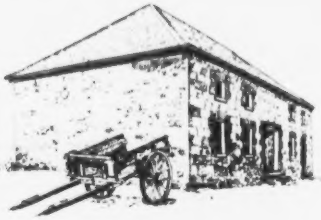
Points of interest:

- aboriginal belongings on ground
- dress of explorer
- ships in background
- drawings of trees —probably gums, wattles and casuarinas

Question:

- Were the French scientists justified in disturbing the Aboriginal grave?





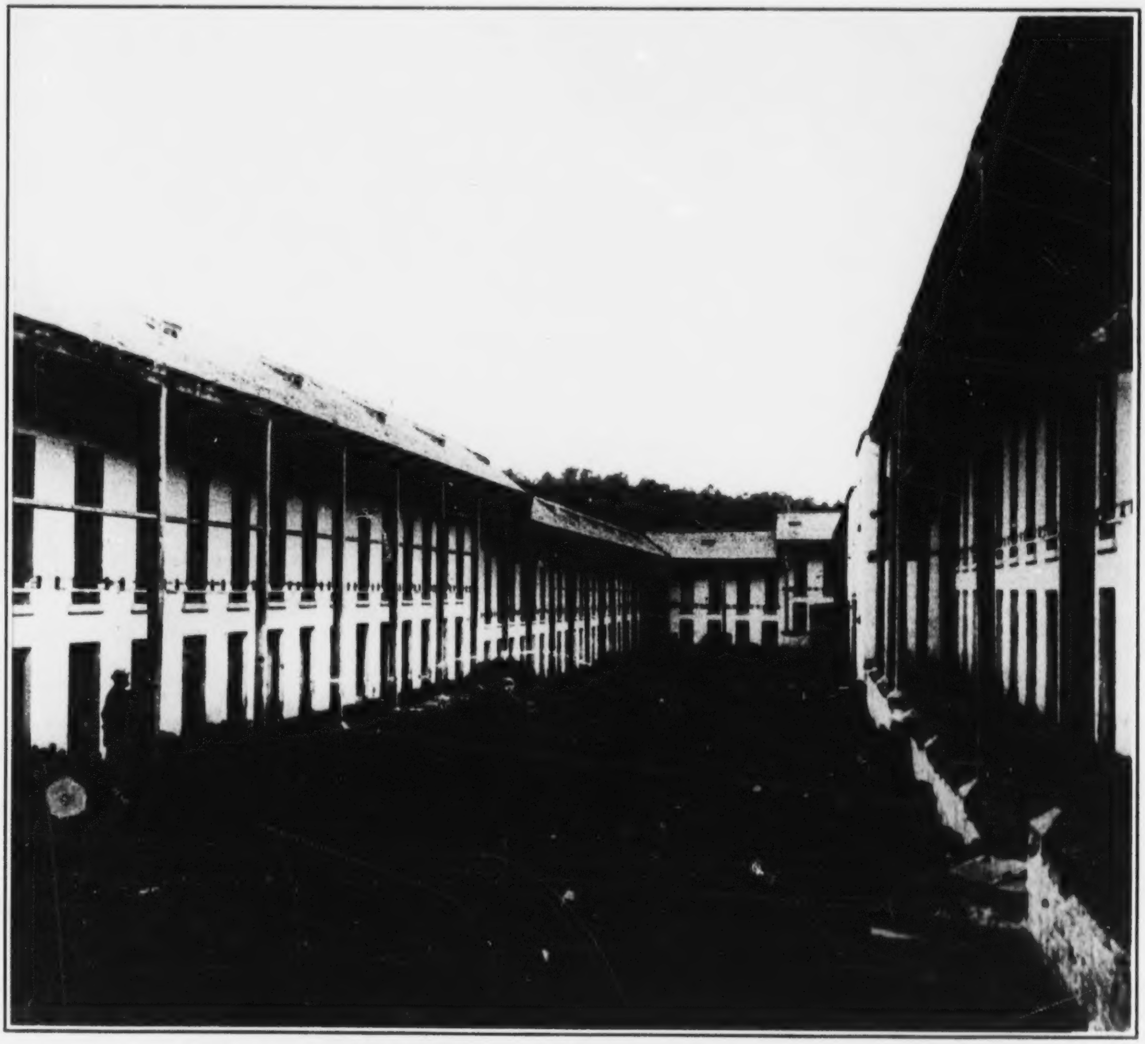
4. *Commissariat Store and surrounds (artist's drawing)*

In the early convict period, the large stone Commissariat Store was the centre of a group of buildings which included the hospital (on the hill), dwellings, a bakery and a guard house. The twin-roofed dwelling on the left was the first house of the officials. The commandant, the surgeon and the storekeeper lived there.

The Commissariat Store was built in 1825 and measured 20 metres by 10 metres. Downstairs were the office, the provision store and the spirit room. Upstairs were two store rooms belonging to the Ordnance Department. A guard house, seen in the left foreground of the picture, was built in the same year. Three soldiers guarded the store.

Points of interest:

- flagpole
- bridge (near right)
- fencing
- chimneys

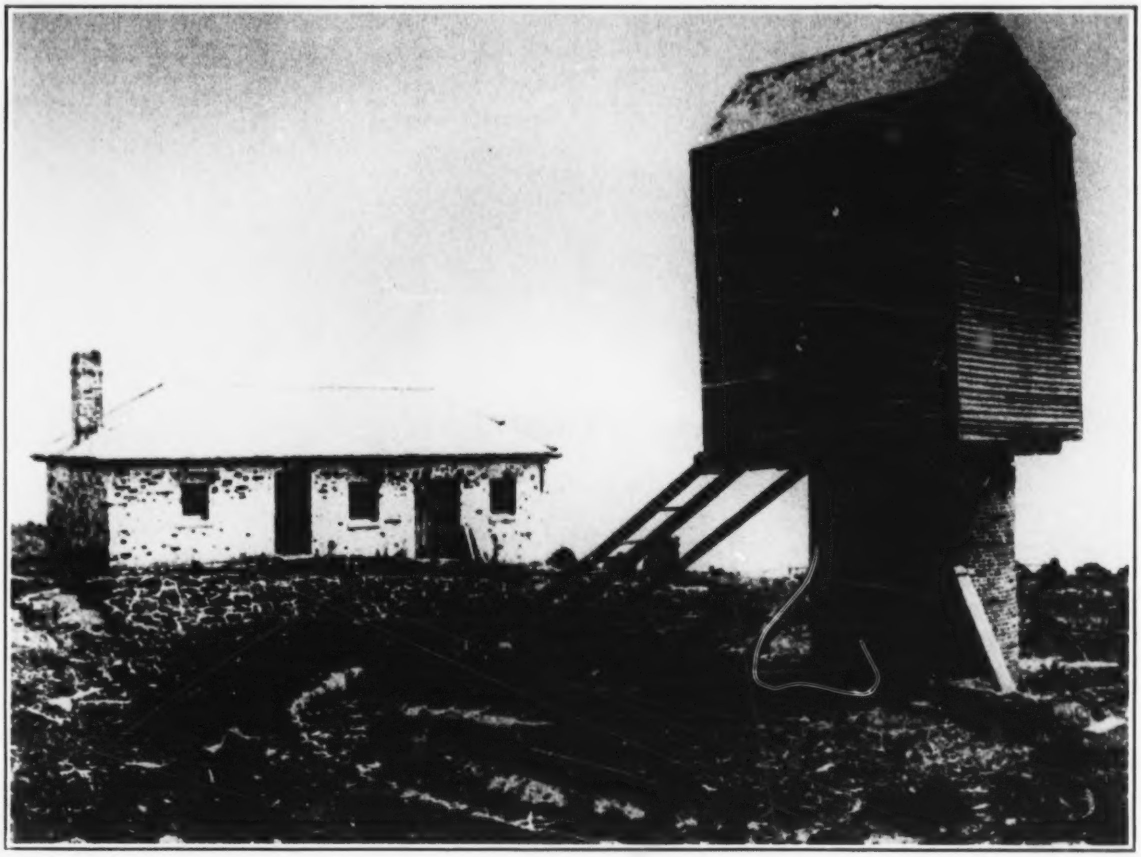


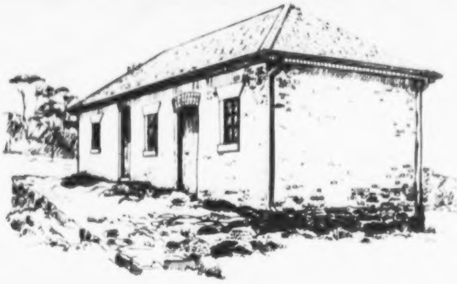
5. *Convict Separate Apartments, Maria Island, c.1888*

These brick buildings were begun in 1842. The second storey was added in 1846. The apartments made it possible for the commandant to keep 205 of the convicts in separate cells. Prisoners were returned to the cells each night after work. The cells contained only a shelf, utensils and a bible. The convicts slept on the floor, and every day their bedding was aired on the railing outside, weather permitting.
The building was demolished in 1888 by Signor Bernacchi. He used the bricks to build other accommodation. The lower part of some of the outer walls, and most of the cell foundations were left, and can still be found as mounds on the surface of the ground.

Points of interest:

- shingle roof
- position of upper-floor walkway (already demolished)
- over-grown yard





6. *Miller's Cottage and windmill*

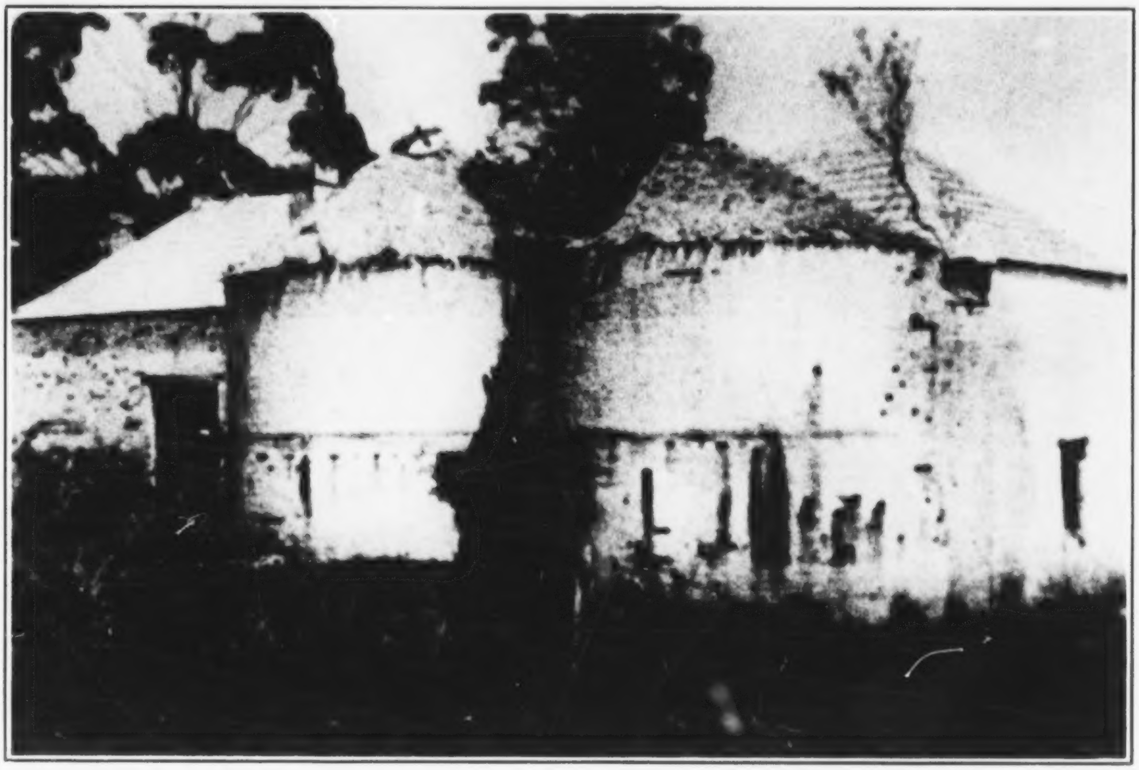
The two-roomed Miller's Cottage is the only convict building which has a date on it; 1846 is carved in stone above the lintel of the central window. The miller was responsible for grinding all the grain for Darlington when it was a Probation Station in the 1840s.
The windmill was called a post-mill because it was built to balance and turn on a single post. The sails were turned into the wind to give power for the mill to work.

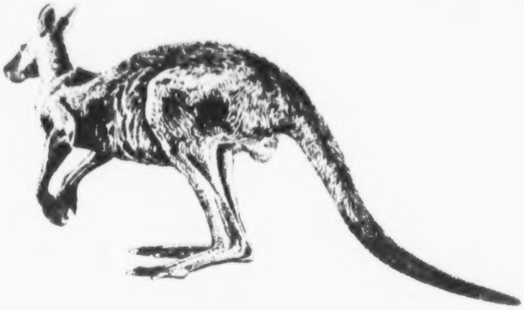
Points of interest:

- stone circle around windmill (the windmill had a brick-built cylindrical base, said to be about five metres high)
- absence of sails on windmill
- landscaped stone-wall in front of cottage

Questions:

- What has changed since the photograph was taken late last century?
- Why was the top of the windmill built upon a five-metre base?
- Why would the top half be constructed of timber rather than brick?
- Why was there a stone circle around the windmill?





7. *Oast house*

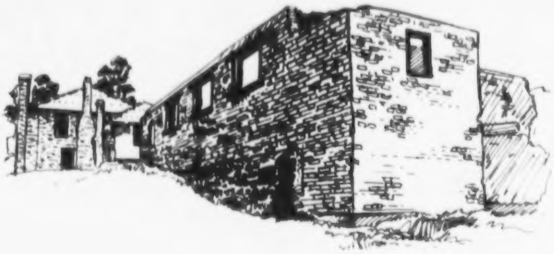
The convict-built oast house was built before 1845. It had two large, brick drying-towers with floors of specially made ventillating tiles. The tiles can still be found among the ruins. The hop fields were beyond the kiln on the flat area beside the creek. By 1847 hops covered an area of seven hectares and production was three tonnes. The building is thought to have been used by Bernacchi as a winery.

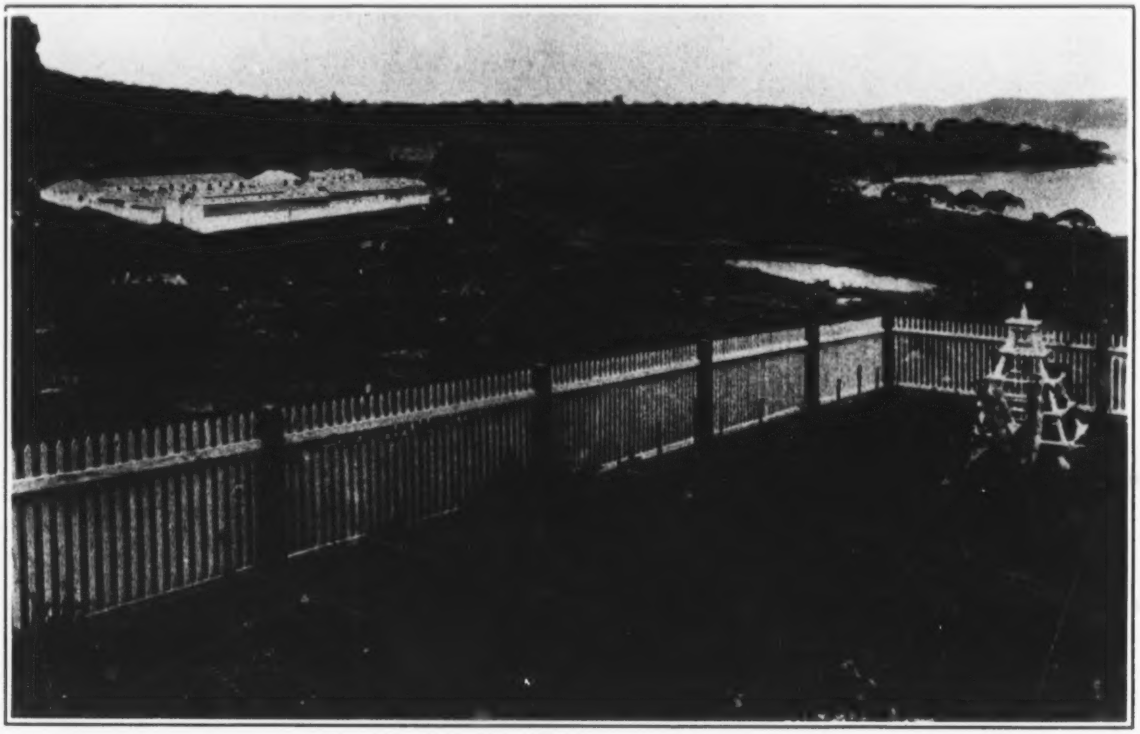
Points of interest:

- circular drying-kilns
- storage area
- shingle roof

Questions:

- What changes have taken place here since this photograph was taken?
- Why would these changes have taken place?
- Why do you think hops were grown here (two kilometres from Darlington) rather than at Darlington?





8. View of Darlington Probation Station, c.1886

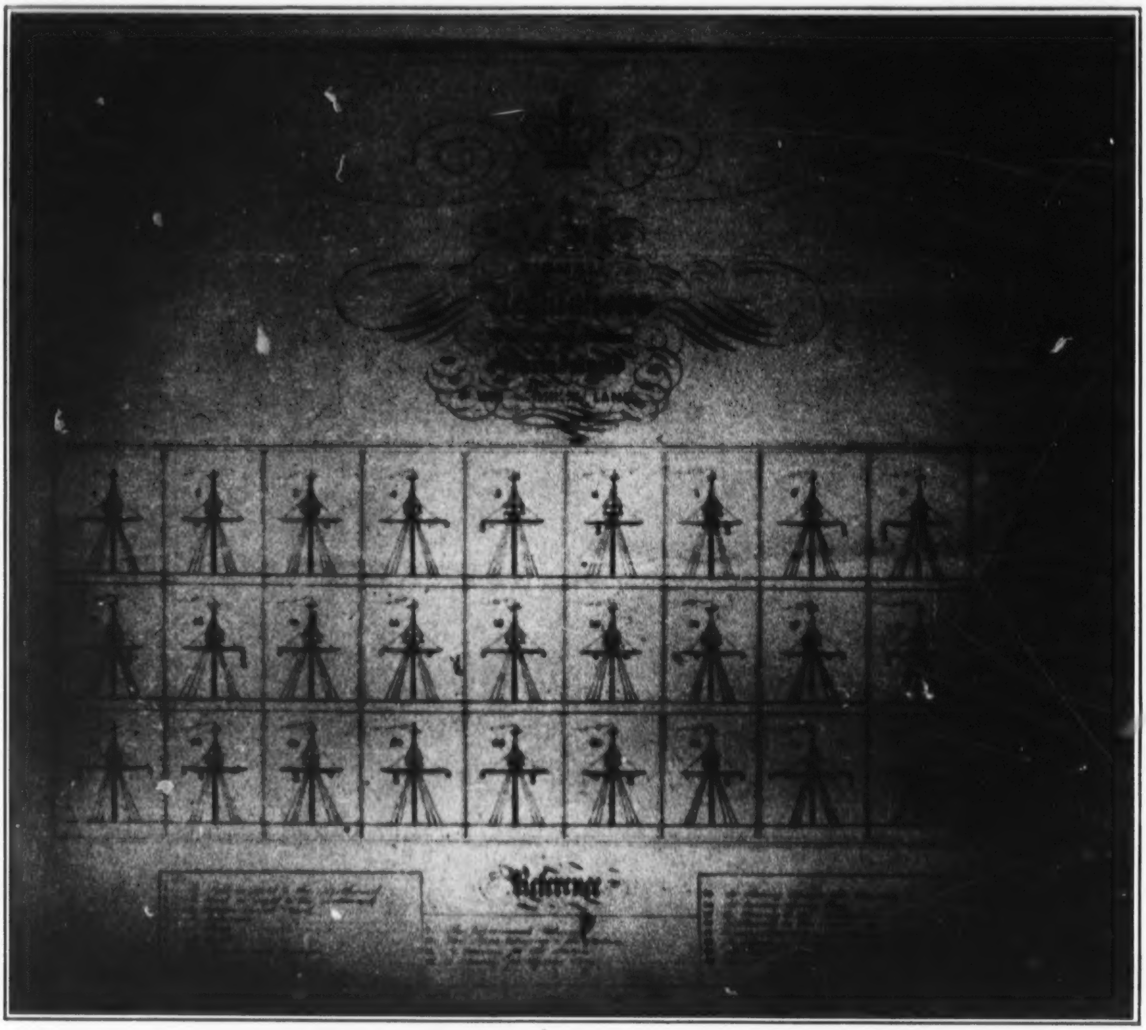
This view was taken from the garden of the Bernacchi family home. The photograph must have been taken before 1888 because in that year the Separate Apartments for convicts were demolished by Bernacchi to make space for the Coffee Palace. The bricks from the Separate Apartments were used to construct the six terrace cottages, for the foundations of other buildings and for roadworks.

Points of interest:

- far distant right: the houses of the visiting magistrate and the commandant
- Bernacchi's garden
- cactii
- garden decoration
- picket fence

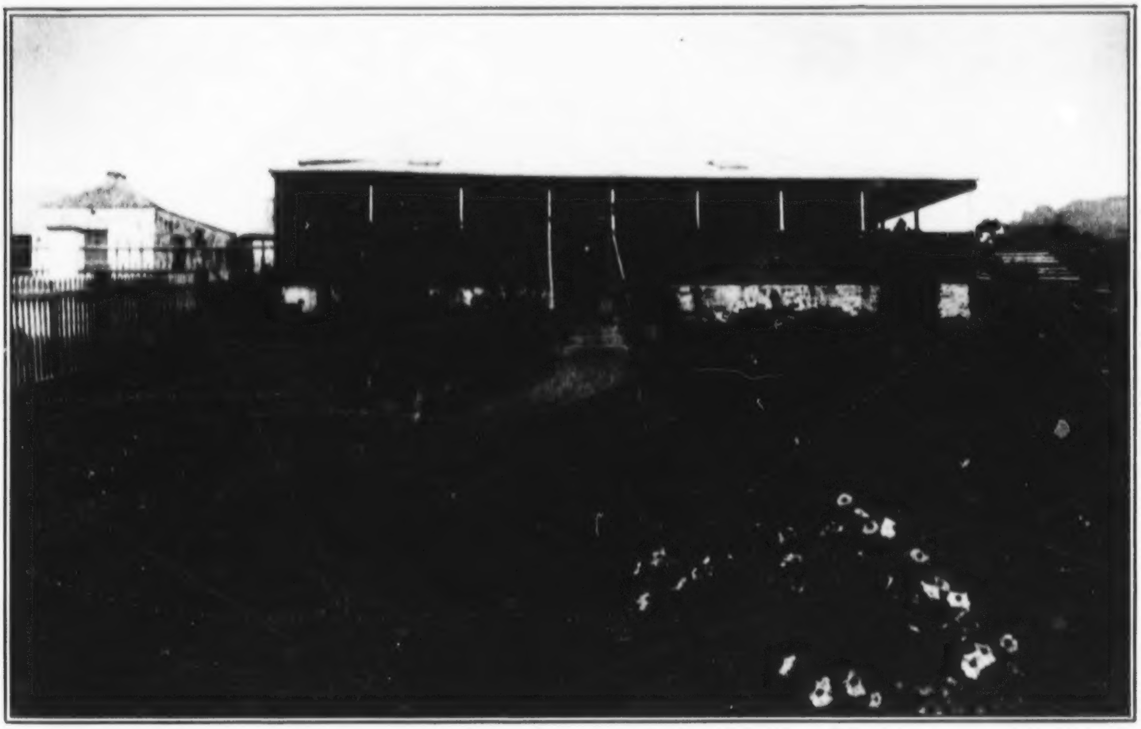
Question:

- Look towards Darlington. What changes can you see? Apart from buildings, what has been added to the landscape since this photograph was taken?



9. *Signal regulations, Darlington harbour*

Make up your own code and use it to send a message across the school-yard.
How many ways to send messages do we have nowadays?



10. *Bernacchi's house, c.1886*

This house was planned in the late convict period as a two-room house for the religious instructor, but when it was built in 1843 it had four rooms. The Reverend Thomas Dove had a family and was willing to pay for the extra materials to build a bigger house.

The house was renovated and occupied by Signor Bernacchi when he took over the lease of the island in the 1880s.

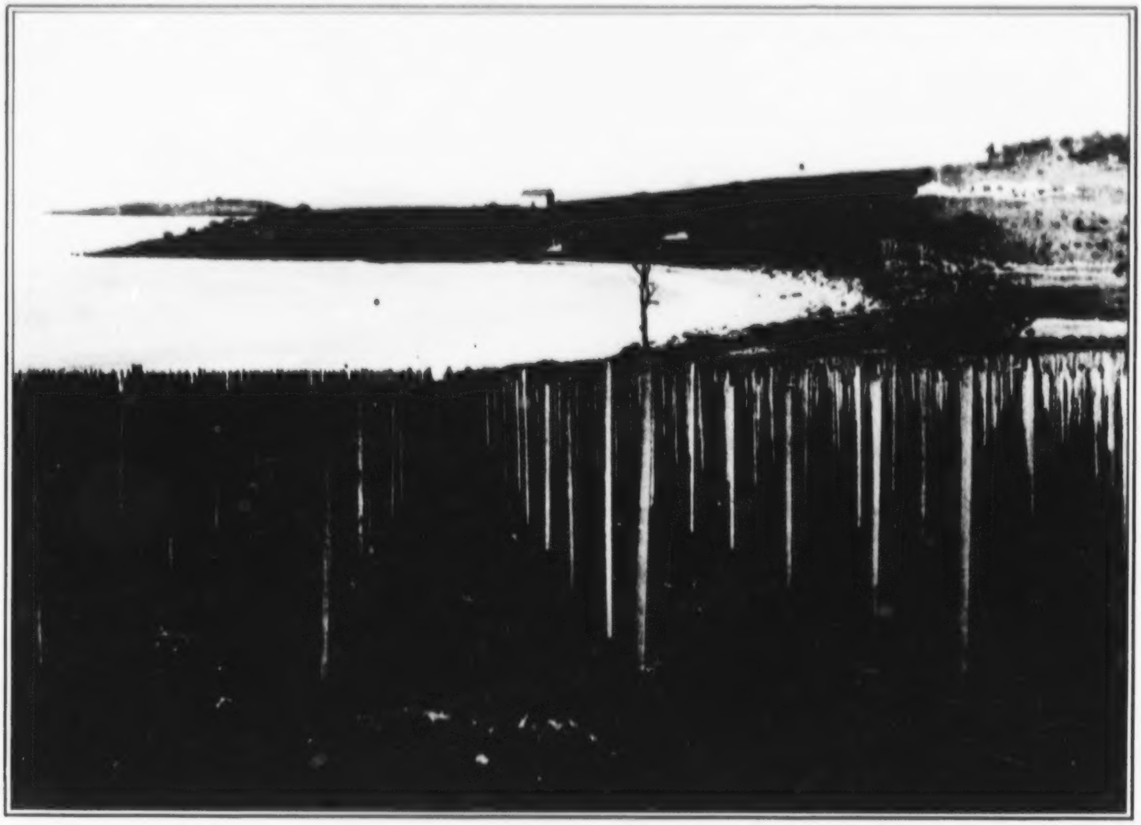
This photograph shows members of Tasmania's Parliament during their visit to check on Bernacchi's progress in his Maria Island developments. Louis and Roderick Bernacchi are sitting on the steps. Above them are their sister Helena, their mother Barbe and the family nurse.

Points of interest:

- landscaped garden
- aloe cactus
- convict hospital to left of house

Question:

- Find three things about the way people are dressed which show that this photograph was taken a long time ago.



11. *Maria Island vineyards, c.1886*

Signor Bernacchi brought experienced vineyard workers to the island to start a wine industry. By 1886 approximately 50,000 vines had been planted. In 1887 the Hobart *Mercury* reported that the Maria Island vineyards were 'among the most important vineyards of Australia'. Several wines were sent to the 1888-89 Melbourne Centennial Exhibition. Although the vineyard was still very young, one of the wines won a third prize.

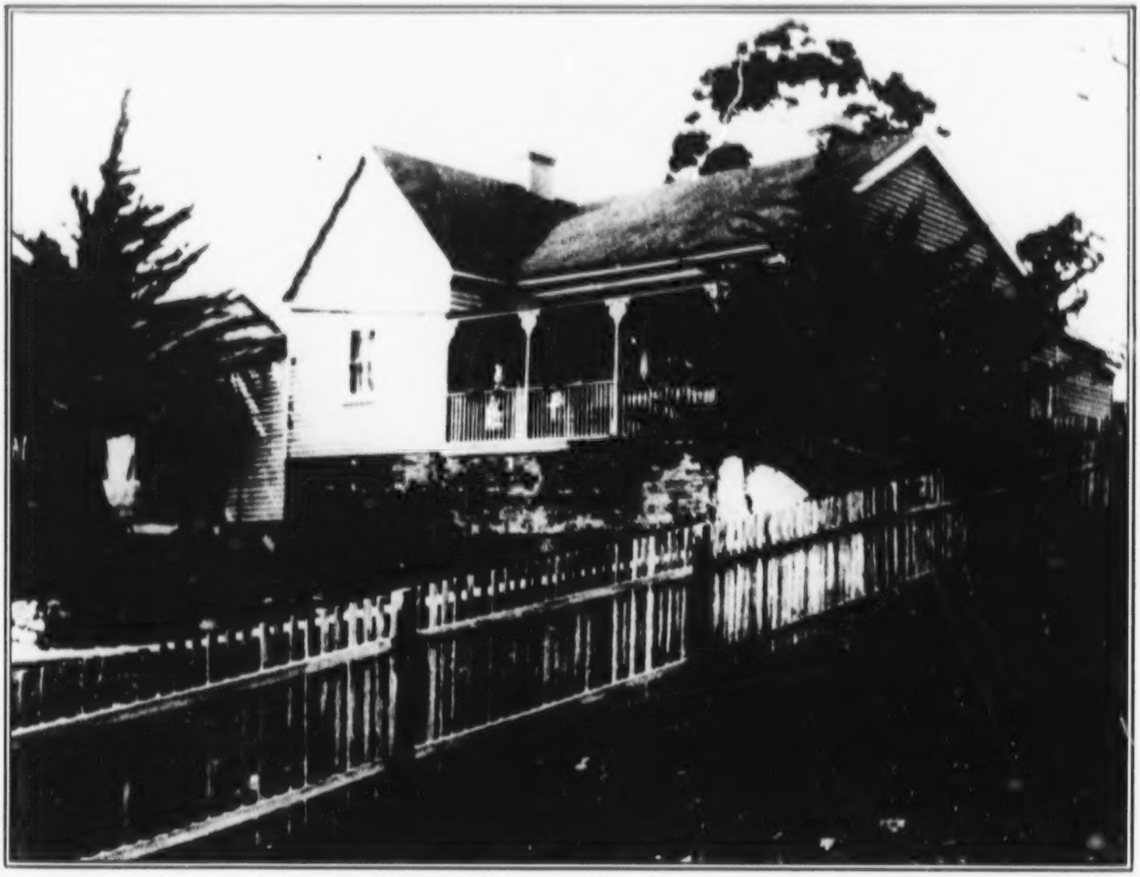
Points of interest:

- vineyard plantings
- Commissariat Store and other buildings on the foreshore
- buildings on the right of the hill:
  - Bernacchi's house
  - hospital
  - convict-built Barn and Miller's Cottage on skyline

Questions:

This photograph was taken from the hill in front of Mrs Hunt's cottage.

- What is the building in the centre on the skyline?
- Why would Bernacchi have planted his vineyard on this hillside outside Darlington?



12. *Timber houses*

In about 1890, two large timber houses were built on the southern edge of Darlington. They are said to have been built for the managers of Bernacchi's enterprises on the island. In the 1920s the houses were renovated and occupied by the Works Managers. Later on, when Signor Bernacchi and his family moved in to occupy the two houses, Bernacchi had a covered verandah built to join the two dwellings.

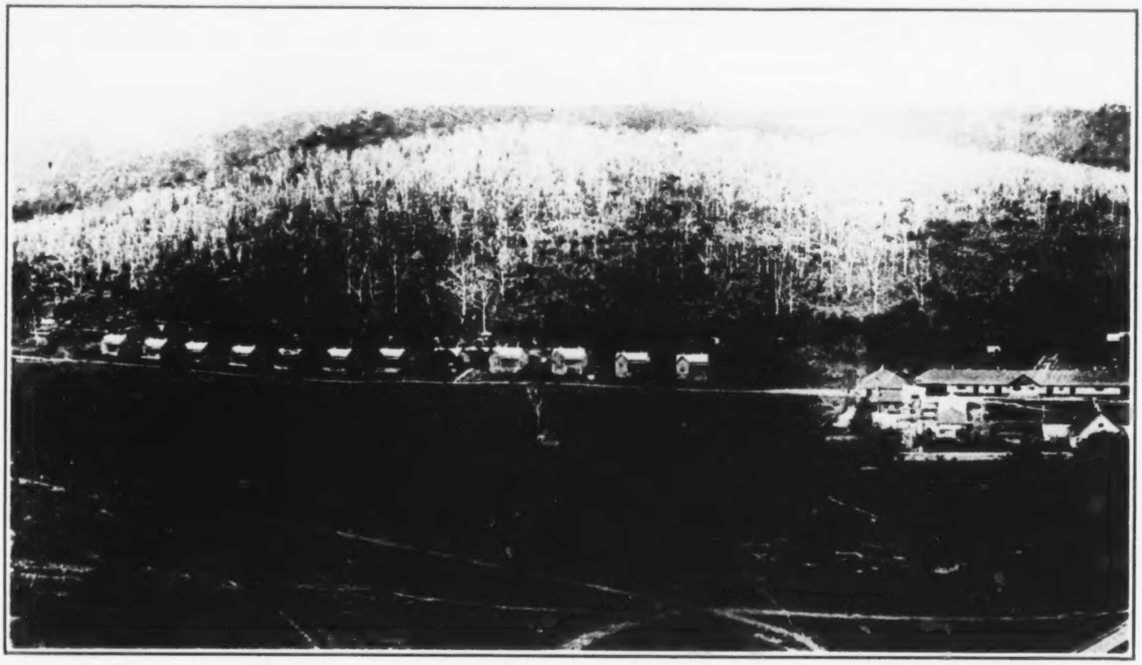
The houses were renovated in 1985 and are now used as staff housing by the Lands, Parks and Wildlife Department.

Points of interest:

- verandah joining two houses
- family on verandah
- landscaping of front garden
- macrocarpa pine in front garden

Question:

- How would these houses have been heated and lit back in the 1890s?



13. *The 'Twelve Apostles', c.1889*

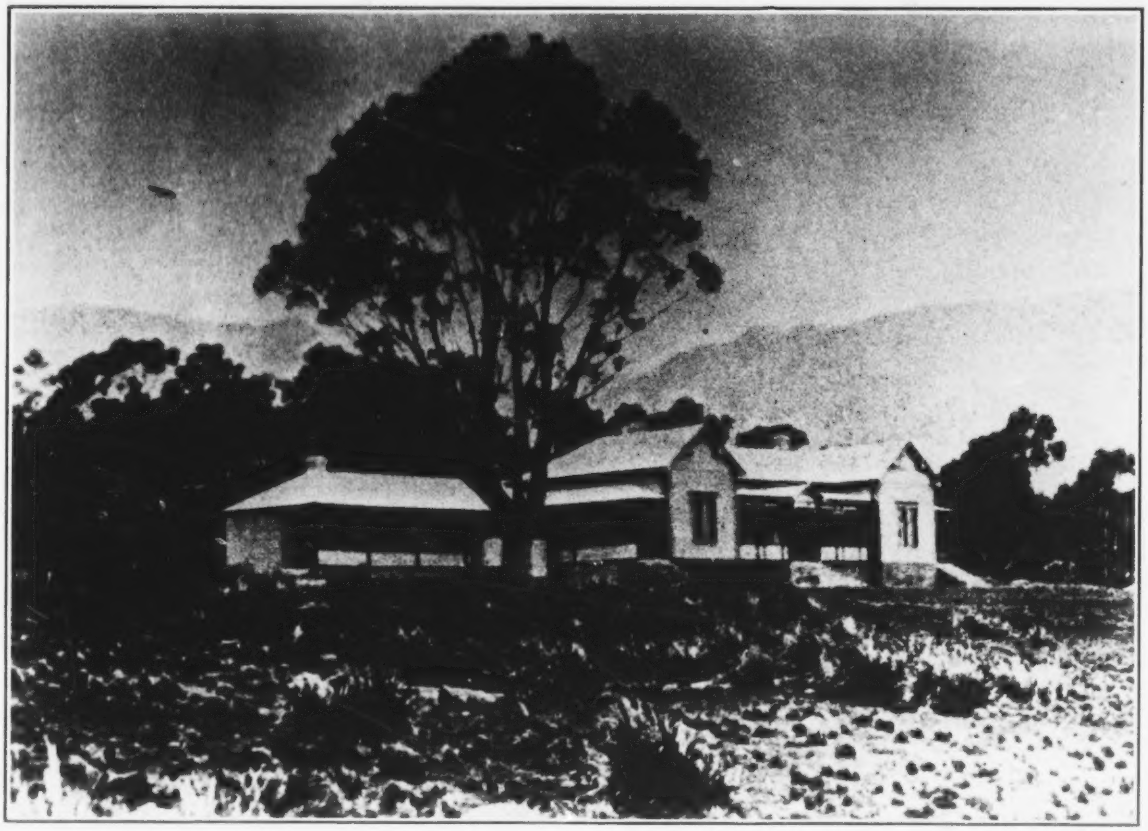
In about 1889 twelve new timber cottages were built in a row east of the Darlington township. They became known as the 'Twelve Apostles'. They were built to house employees of the industries set up on the island. In the 1920s they were renovated by the National Portland Cement Company for its employees. In the 1930s the houses were bought by the government, taken apart and moved to Hobart where they were rebuilt.

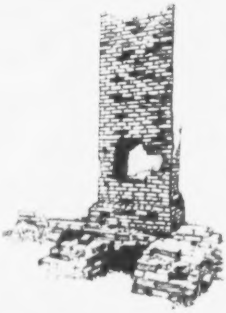
Points of interest:

- the fencing
- dead trees on the hillside (ringbarked)
- roads and tracks
- fencing in front of penitentiary

Questions:

- The hillside behind the houses is being cleared. Why would people want to clear that land?
- How could you kill a tree without chopping it down?
- Why were these cottages called the 'Twelve Apostles'?





14. *Grand Hotel*

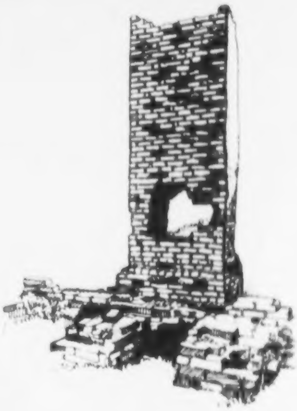
The Grand Hotel was a timber building. It was opened in April 1888 with accommodation for 30 guests, as well as having a drawing room, a billiard room and sitting rooms. A four-tiered garden was developed in front of the hotel. In the 1920s this building was used as the office of the National Portland Cement Company. The hotel was later demolished and sold for its building materials, which were used somewhere on the East Coast of Tasmania.

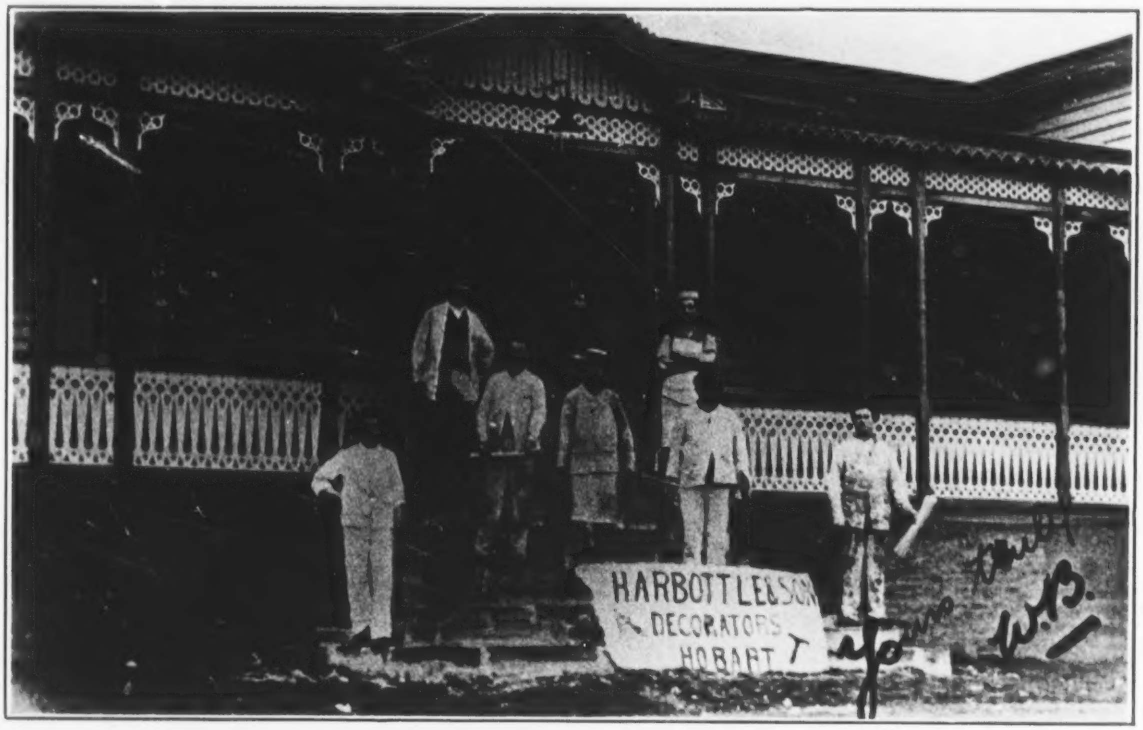
Points of interest:

- attractive timber work on outside of building
- lack of evidence of original tiered garden
- chimneys

Questions:

- What has changed since this photograph was taken?
- Why have those changes taken place?
- Imagine you are the owner of the Grand Hotel on Maria Island. Write a letter to a friend explaining why they should visit.



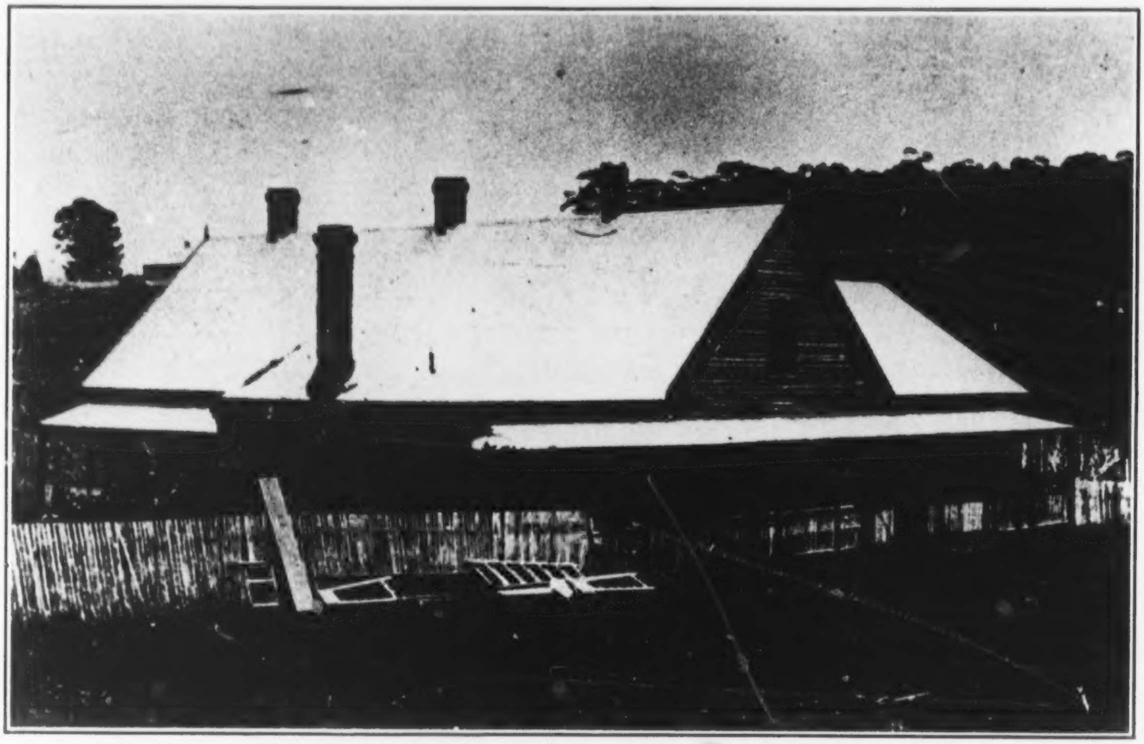


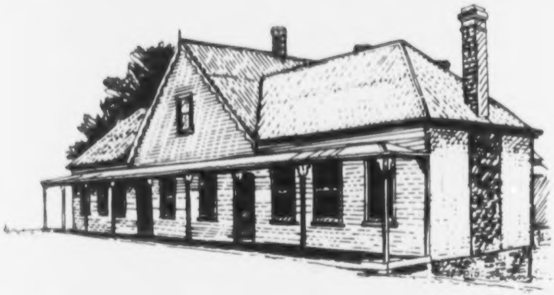
15. *Close-up of Grand Hotel*

This close-up view of the Grand Hotel shows the attractive woodwork which decorated the outside of the hotel. It was intended to be part of a sanitorium complex but was never very successful.
In 1923 it was renovated to become the offices of the National Portland Cement Company. As well as offices, the building housed some staff and a bush-nurse who had a ward, bedrooms and a kitchen in the building.

Points of interest:
- timber work
- lighting
- clothing and tools

Questions:
- Who might the initials W.B. belong to?
- Why do you think he has written on the photograph?
- This photograph was taken from an old postcard. Why would someone want to use a photograph like this as a postcard?





16. *The Coffee Palace*

The Coffee Palace was built in 1888 on the site once occupied by the Separate Apartments. Convict-made bricks from the earlier building were used for the foundations.

Originally the front of the 'Palace' contained two large dining rooms separated by a large sitting room. In the wing behind were seven dining-sitting rooms and the kitchens. 'Coffee Palace' was a name commonly used to describe a type of restaurant.

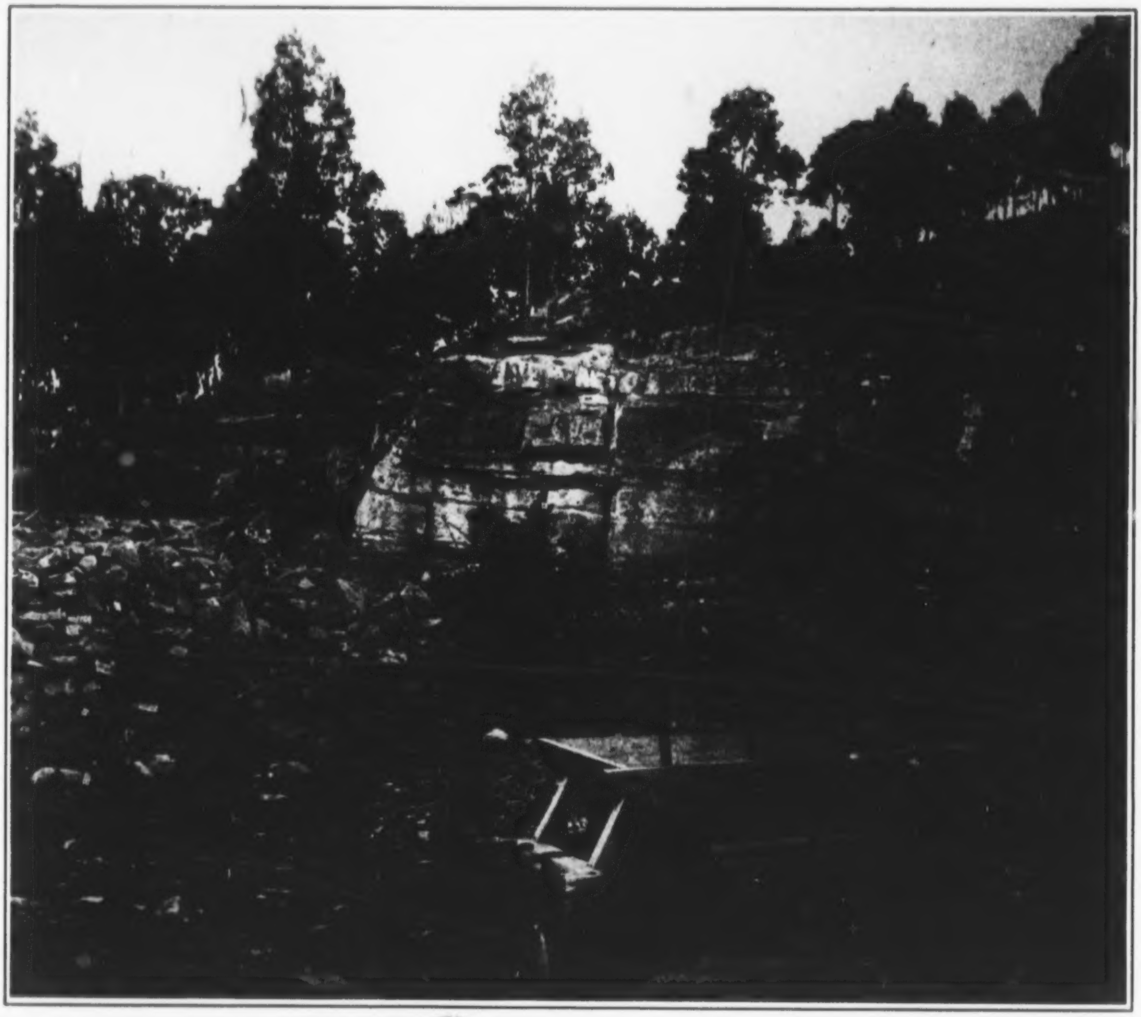
The building later became a guest-house with the wing rooms becoming bedrooms. For quite a long time it was run by Mrs Rosa Adkins, widow of the first (1890s) Cement Works Manager. Residents of the 1920s remember Miss Kalpfell running the guest-house for VIP visitors to the Cement Works.

Points of interest:

- fences
- garden
- buildings on hill, far left

Questions:

- What changes have taken place since this photograph was taken?
- What sort of food might have been served?



17. *Quarry, Maria Island, c.1890*

This is one of many quarries from which limestone was mined in the 1890s for the making of Portland Cement.

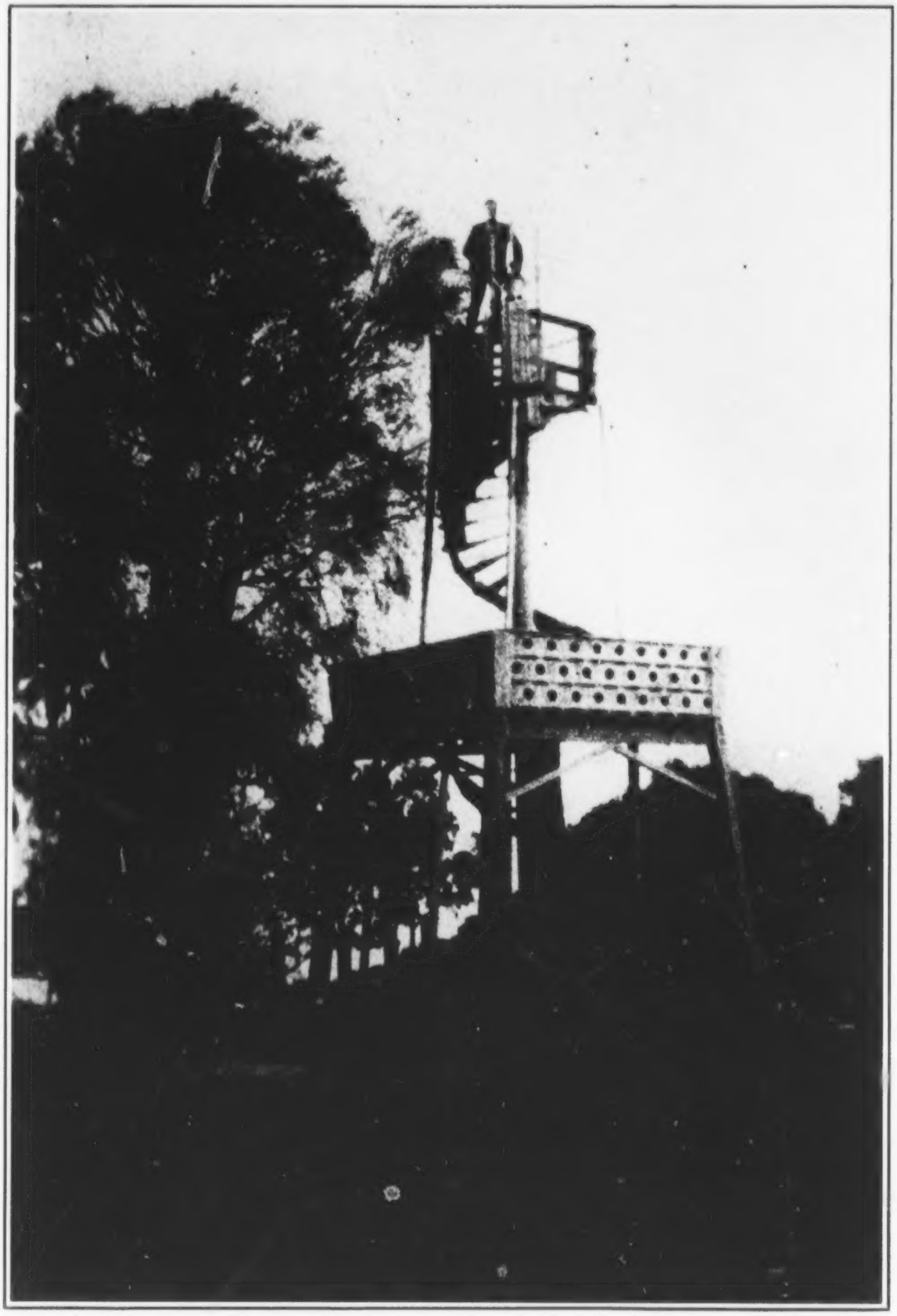
Bernacchi imported machinery from Europe and planned to spend $60,000. About 20 kilns for burning lime and clay were planned. Bernacchi wanted to employ 800 men in the industry by 1893, but the local limestone and clay proved unsuitable. The quality of the cement that could be made from the local materials varied too much. In 1905 the *Tasmanian Weekly Courier* reported that the long-deserted works were in ruins and that the imported machinery was rusting into decay.

Points of interest:

- railway line
- wooden truck
- quarried rock ready to be loaded

Questions:

- How do you think the loaded trucks were moved down to Darlington?
- How would the rock have been broken up?

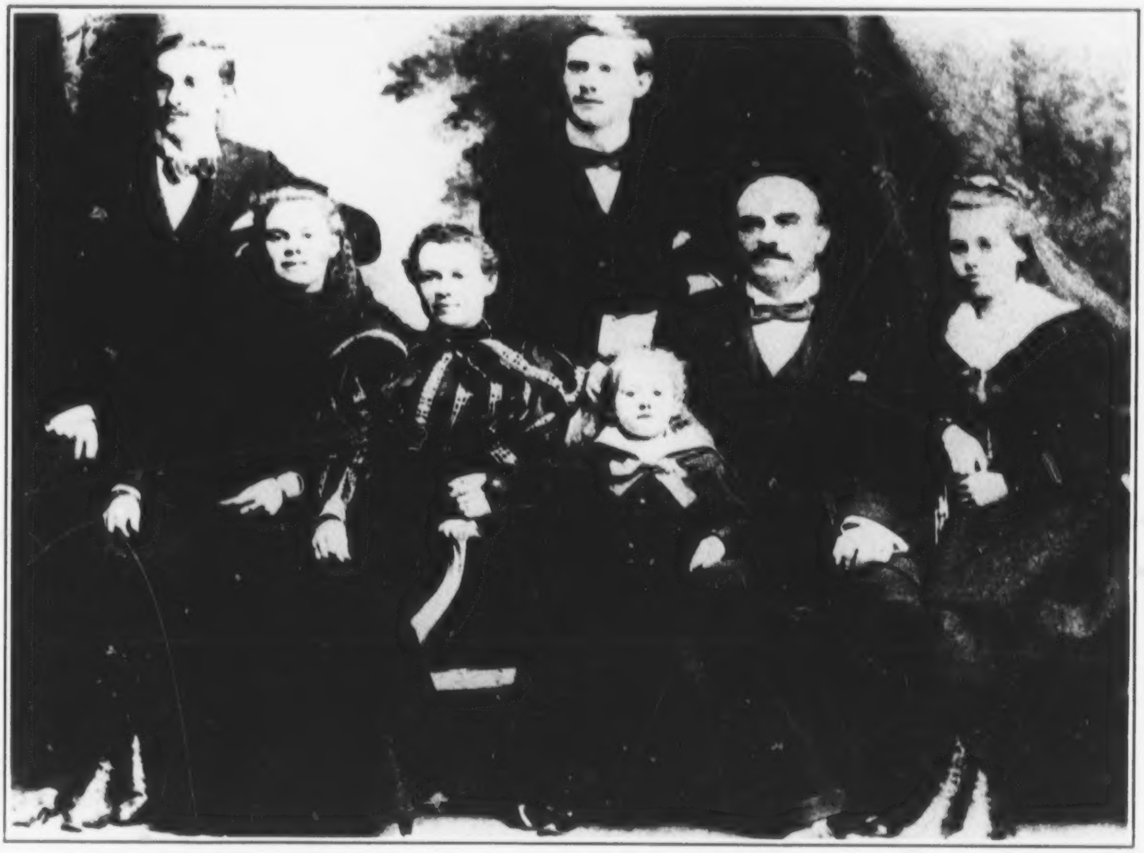


18. *Bernacchi's pigeon loft, c.1890*

Signor Bernacchi built the pigeon loft to the seaward side of the visiting magistrate's house on the hill south of Darlington. Evidence of the base still remains. It was reported to have been built of huon pine without any nails. The pigeons were used for sending messages. A cloud of white birds was released on festive occasions. Residents of the 1920s remember a ricketty but 'beautiful pine' structure. They also remember that their mothers tried to stop them playing there.

Points of interest:

- brick foundations — convict brick?
- pigeon enclosures on first-platform level
- spiral staircase



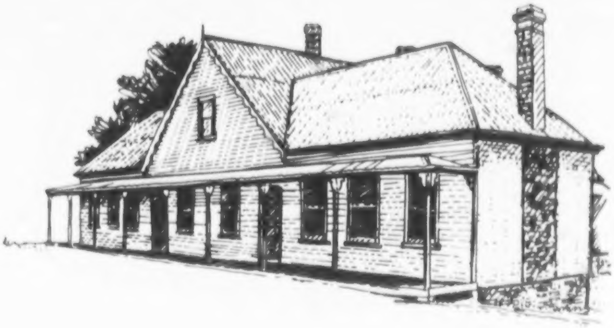
19. *Bernacchi family portrait, c.1890*

Diego Bernacchi was a prosperous Italian silk merchant in England when he decided to bring his family to Australia. He chose Maria Island as a place to settle because of its soil and climate. The Bernacchi family arrived on Maria Island in 1884, bringing with them three children, luggage, furniture, provisions, dogs, horses, sheep, pigs, cows, poultry and bullocks. They chose as their home a convict building, which they restored elegantly.
In this photograph we see at the back, sons Roderick and Louis; seated are (from left) Helena, Signora Bernacchi, Vega, Signor Bernacchi and Blanche.

*Photograph: Courtesy M. Weidenhofer

Points of interest:
- style of clothing
- footwear — button boots
- hairstyles
- collar and tie style of men
- watch chain

Activities:
- Make a list of the things you would take if you were going to live on an uninhabited island.
- Find out about some of the pioneering families who settled in your area.
- Find a modern-day family photograph. Make a display of 'modern' and 'old ' family photographs. What comparisons can you make?



20. *Maria Island advertisement*

After Signor Bernacchi left Maria Island in 1895 the businesses he had started closed down and most of the people living there left in search of work.

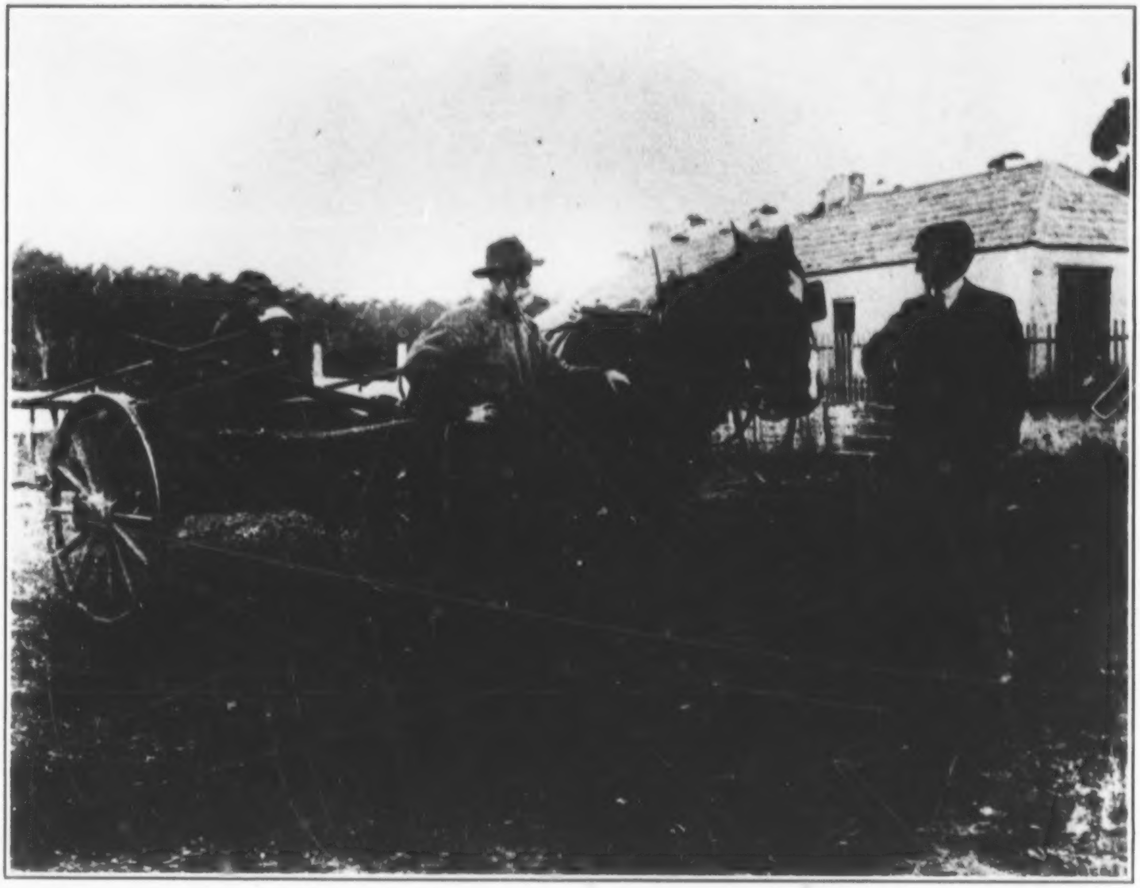
The Grand Hotel and Coffee Palace were finally taken over by others who thought the island had a future as a tourist spot. The hotel was given a new name, the Links Hotel, and the Coffee Palace became known as Mrs Adkins' boarding house. This photograph shows the front cover of a pamphlet which was printed to advertise Maria Island.

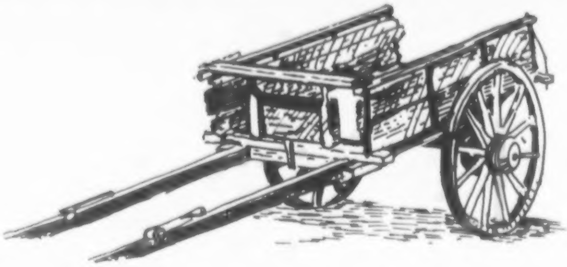
Points of interest:

- words used in advertising

Activities:

- Design your own advertisement for Maria Island.
- Design a brochure, or present a talk with slides to promote the Island. Your audience could be parents or friends, or another school class who haven't visited the Island.





21. *Farmer in Darlington, c.1908*

Farming has been important on Maria Island ever since the convict station was built. The names of some of the families who farmed there include Dunbabbin, Amiguet and McCulloch. Families who were later involved in farming the island include McRae, Adkins, Lawrence, Robey, Howell and French.

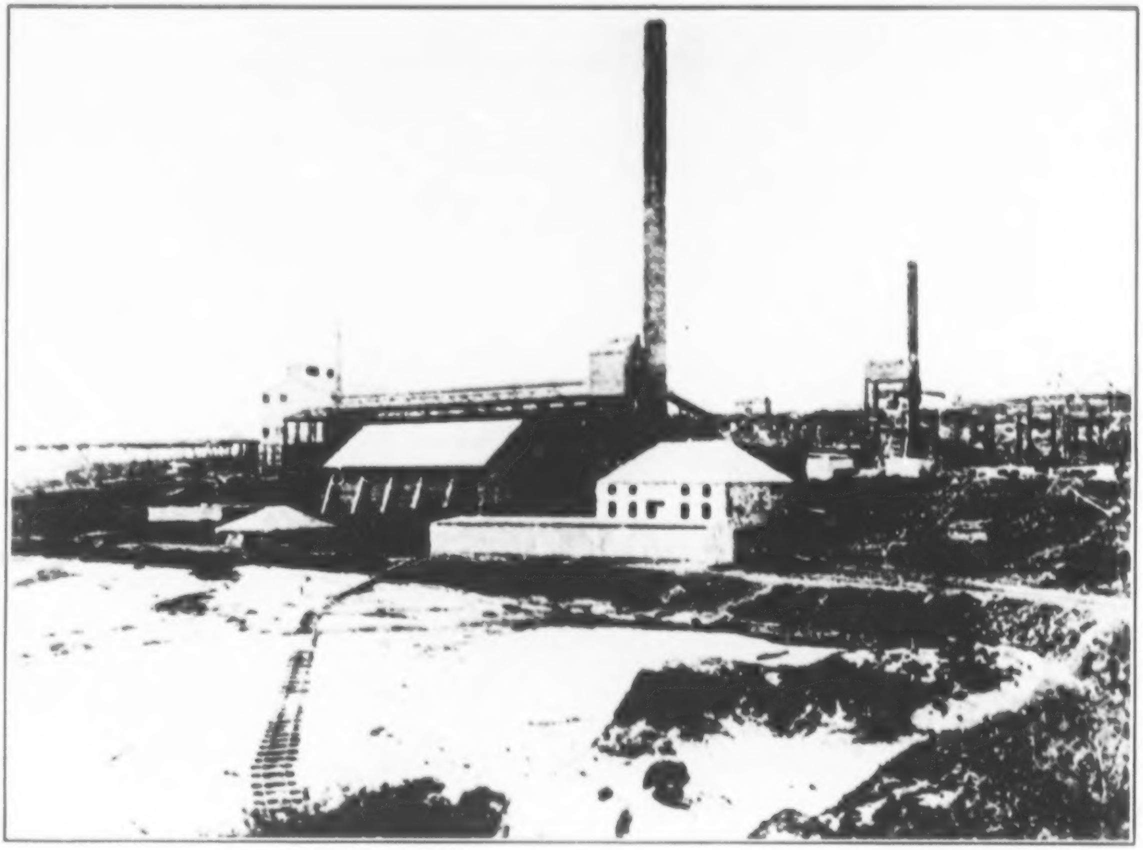
It is thought that the farmer in this photograph could be Mr J.M.McCulloch, who had a farm in the Chinaman's Bay area in 1889.

Points of interest:

- springs on dray
- plank seat in dray
- hats of ladies
- compare the dress of the two men
- picket fences
- timber shingles on roof
- leggings

Questions:

- Imagine that cars and buses hadn't been invented —everyone is still dependent on the horse. How would your life be different?
- Why were the wheels on carts like these so large?



22. *Building the Cement Works, c.1922*

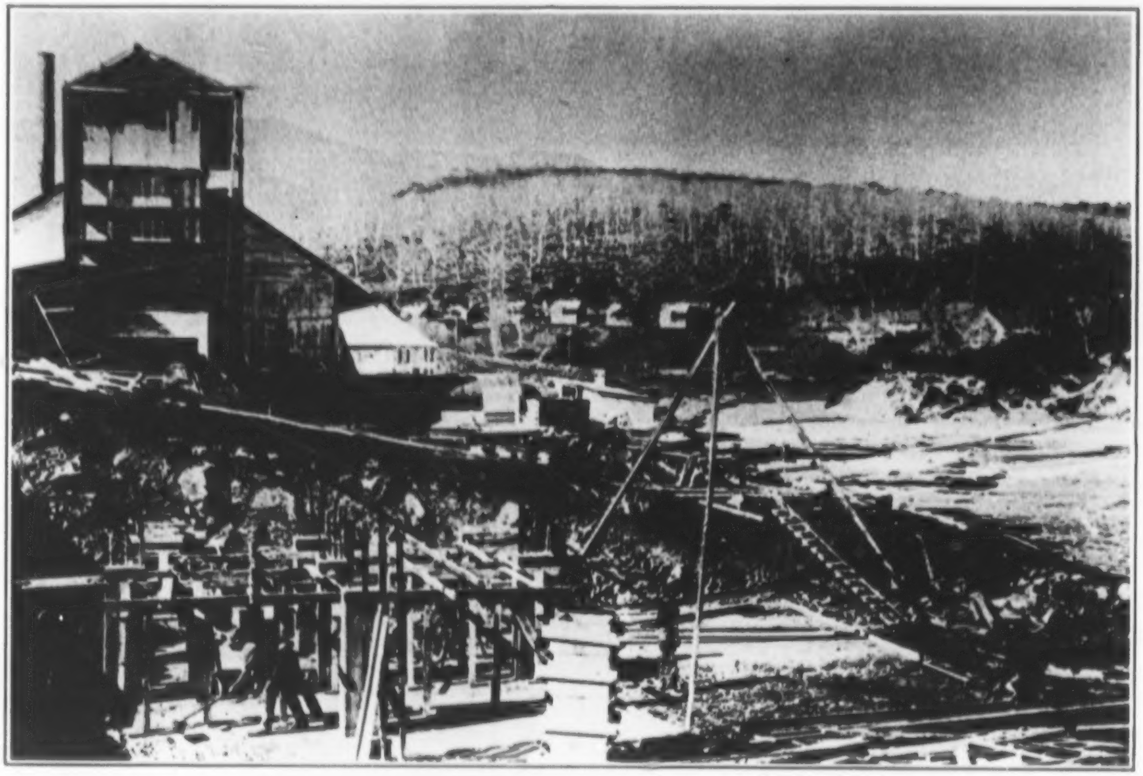
Diego Bernacchi left Maria Island in 1895 and didn't return until 1918 — an absence of nearly twenty years. When he returned he persuaded important business people to build a cement works on Maria Island. In 1922 building began. A new pier was constructed, concrete foundations were made for the heavy machinery, and buildings were erected. A chimney stack 65 metres high, with a diameter of three metres at the bottom, was built using a special method which used no scaffolding. Railway lines were laid to carry sand and rock for making cement. The railway lines also carried timber for the buildings.

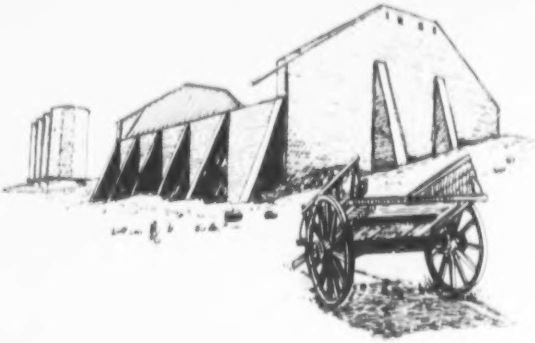
Points of interest:

- tramway running from the sand dunes
- electric coal-haulage (far left)
- raw mill (left)
- clinker storage (centre left)

Questions:

- Pace out 65 metres — the height of the chimney. Why would the chimney need to be so tall?
- Find five things which have changed since this photograph was taken.





23. *Construction of the silos, Darlington, c.1923*

The framework in the foreground marks the beginnings of the large cement silos. These still stand near the jetty at Darlington. From the sand dunes on the right a 'tramway' crossed the mouth of Bernacchi's Creek to bring sand for the construction of the Cement Works.

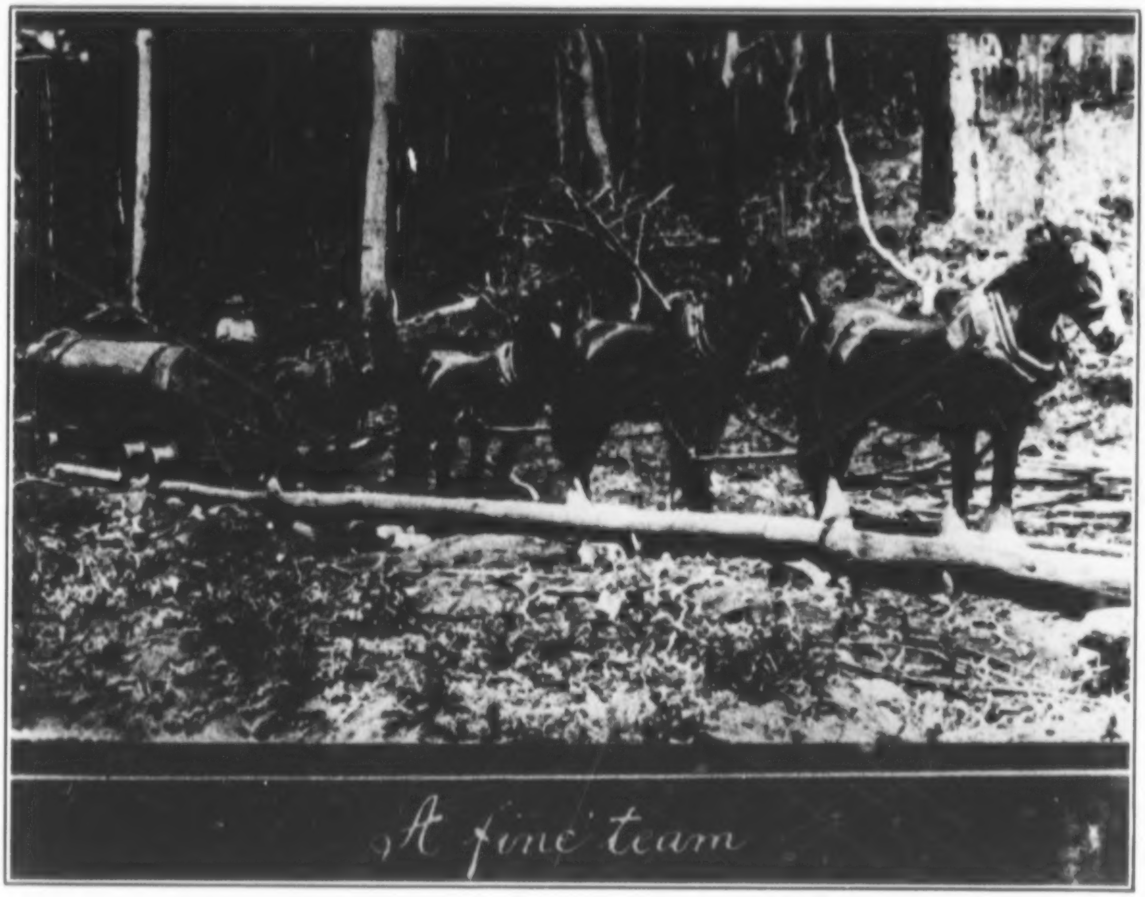
The silos were built up layer by layer ('slip-form' construction). Cement for the buildings was imported in pine barrels from New Zealand. These barrels were popular with the workmen who used them as chairs.

Points of interest:

- ring-barked trees on hillside
- the 'Twelve Apostles' in background
- convict buildings
- Commissariat Store, centre left
- rotary kiln, centre foreground

Questions:

- How do you think they dug out the ground for the silos?
- What is the purpose of the triangle in the centre foreground?

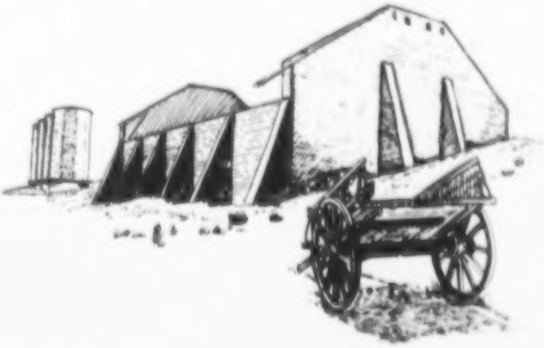


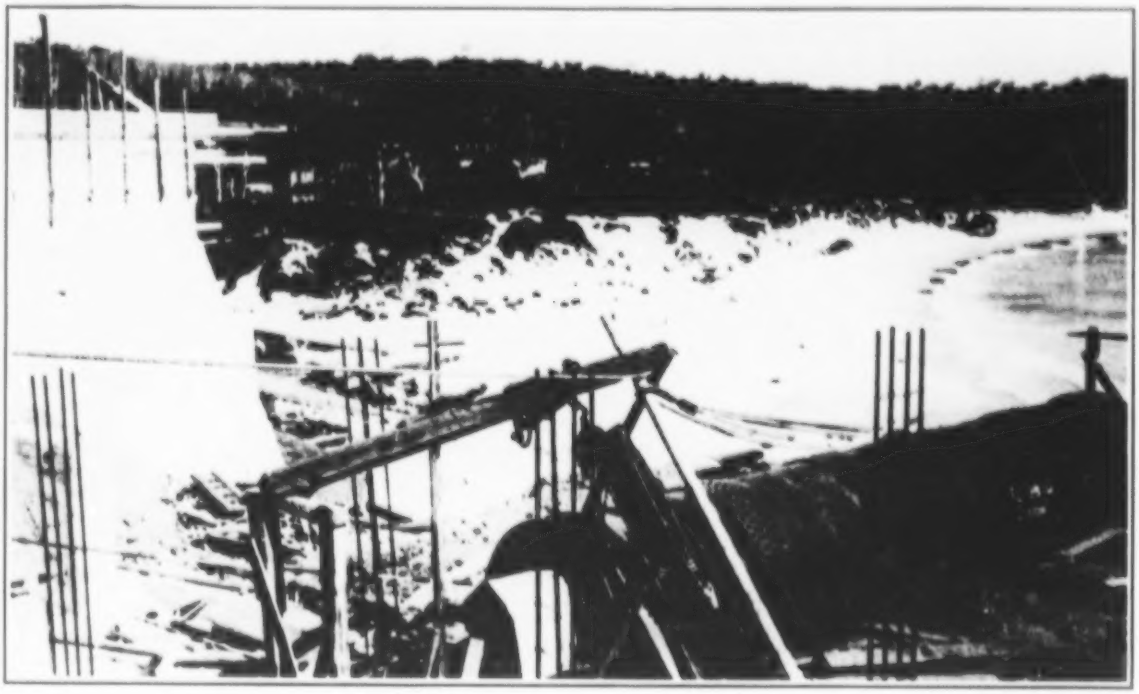
24. *Timber hauling, c.1922*

During the building of the Cement Works at Darlington, a sawmill was built in the valley of Bernacchi's Creek. A large amount of timber was cut from the area around the convict reservoir. Reports say that many of the trees cut in this area had a bole of from 15 to 25 metres, with a diameter of one metre at the base.
The timber was transported to the railway network along wooden rails, using trolleys pulled by teams of draught horses.

Points of interest:
- wooden rails
- horses harnessed in 'sequence'
- size of log
- wheels on trolley (some still on island)

Questions:
- How were trees cut down in those days?
- What would the timber have been used for?





25. *Machinery for the new Cement Works, 1923*

The Commonwealth Government's SS *Cooee* successfully transported specially designed machinery from Europe for the new Cement Works. The Hobart *Mercury* reported that:

> The cargo unloaded at Maria Island, which occupied 80 hours loading at Copenhagen, Hull and London, was discharged and stacked on the factory site without a single hitch in 30 hours.
>
> The arrangements on the jetty at Maria Island had evidently been remarkably well made... Captain Carmichael spoke in the highest terms of the fine organisation which enabled the four holds of his ship to be cleared so quickly. In no port in any part of the world had he seen such excellent work ...

Points of interest:

- crane, pulley method of removal
- framework under kiln
- Bernacchi's terrace cottages in background

Questions:

- Estimate the length of the cylinder.
- Look carefully at the photograph. Can you figure out how the cylinder might have been moved into position?

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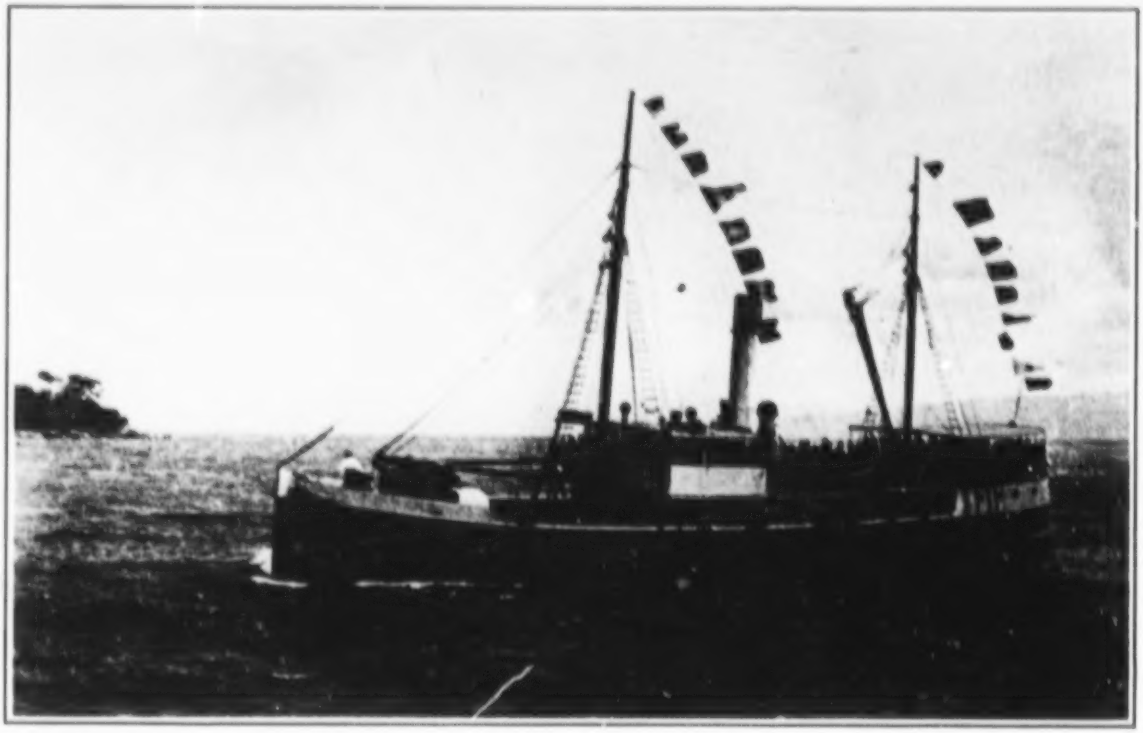


26. *Visitors arriving for Opening Day, Darlington Cement Works, 1924*

The SS *Koomeela* brought visitors to the Opening Day of the National Portland Cement Works on Maria Island. The *Koomeela* was well-known along Tasmania's East Coast. It ran a weekly service from Hobart, carrying passengers, cargo and mail through the Dunalley canal. It stopped at Rheban, Darlington, Triabunna and Swansea on the way, and then returned to Hobart. The return trip from Maria Island through the canal was an all-day trip arriving in Hobart at about 5.00pm. Hazards such as sand-bars occasionally upset the schedule.

Points of interest:

- message of signal flags
- number of passengers

Questions:

- What do the flags mean?
- What power would run a boat of this type?
- Why do we no longer travel in this way?

27. *Opening Day, Cement Works, Maria Island, 1925*

The town centre of Darlington was alive with activity on the Opening Day of the Cement Works. An opening ceremony was held, with the wife of the chairman of directors, Mrs Bowes Kelly, performing the opening.

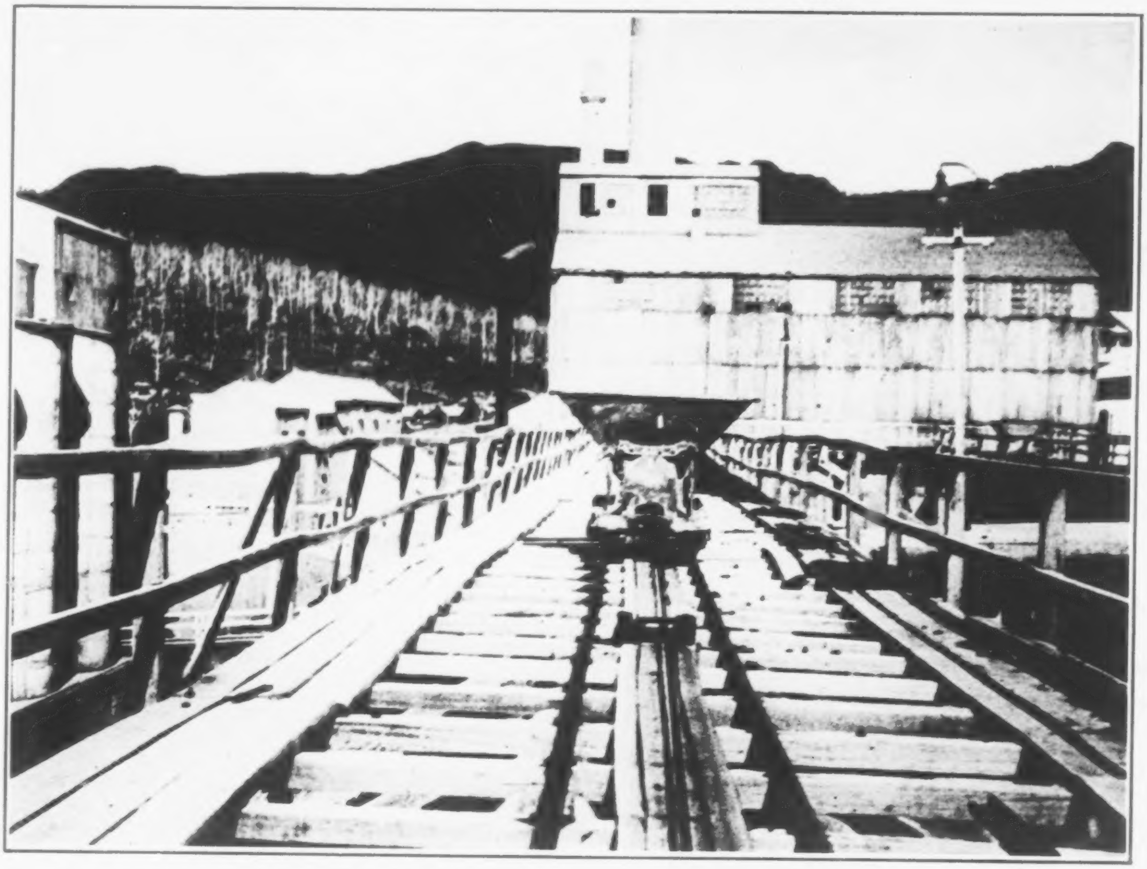
In 1924-25, 30,000 tonnes of cement were produced; but it was found that 80,000 tonnes per year would have been needed for the business to make a profit. This was never achieved. The Cement Works closed down on 28 July 1930.

Points of interest:

- dress of visitors
- wheel marks in village area
- neat appearance of buildings

Activity

- Imagine you are Mr Bernacchi. How would you feel on this important day? Write a letter to a friend describing your feelings.
- How would you have felt when the Cement Works closed down?
- What would have happened to the people who worked at the Cement Works?



28. *Coal haulage, Cement Works, Maria Island, c.1927*

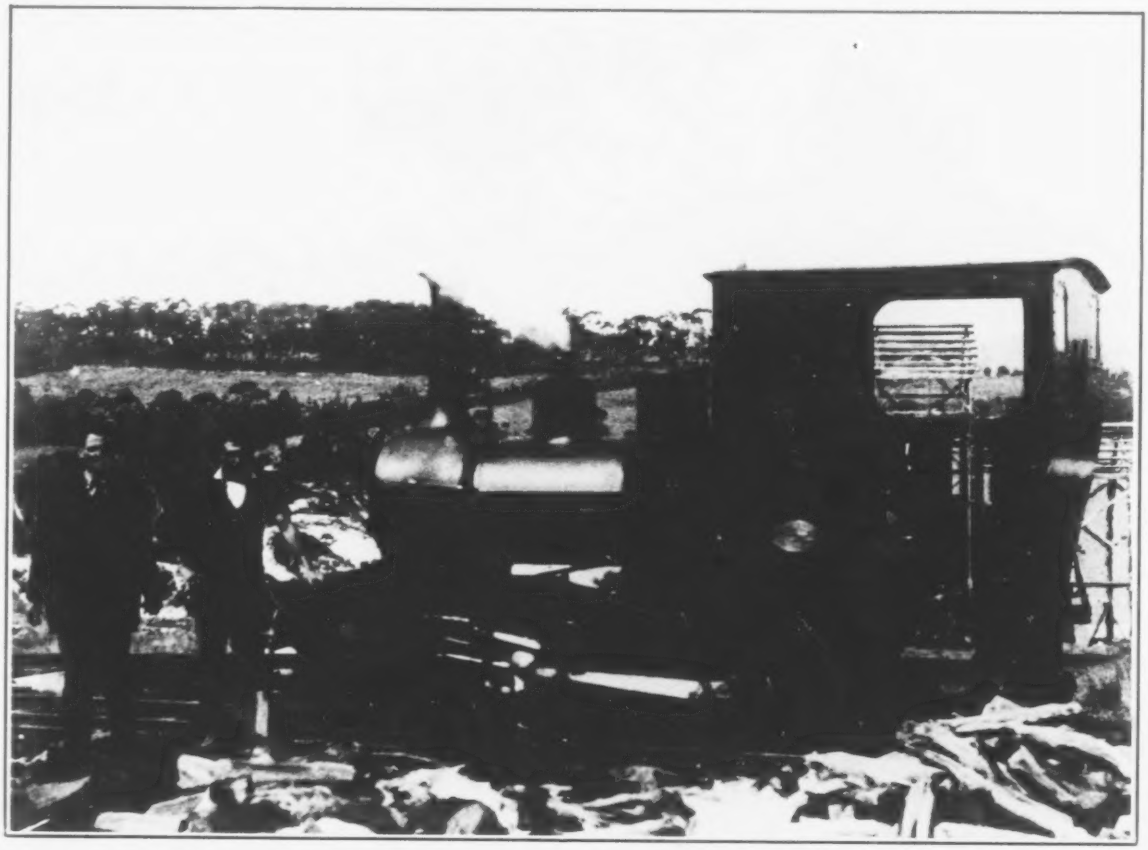
The 'coal haulage' was a large wooden structure, raised up high, along which an electric haulage system pulled trucks of coal. It ran from the jetty to the raw mill. At the point shown in this picture, the trucks were tipped sideways, dumping the coal on to a pile below. Another series of trucks took the coal from the pile into the furnaces.

Points of interest:

- ringbarked trees on hill
- electric light on right-hand side of haulage way
- walkways around buildings
- haulage cable
- spilt coal on right-hand edge of haulage way

Questions:

- Why was the coal haulage way raised above ground level?
- Imagine you are in charge of the Cement Works —where would you get your coal from?



29. *Steam train, Maria Island, c.1924*

This locomotive is a standard Robert Hudson design, built by the Hudswell Clark Company of Leeds in England. It was delivered in 1922 to the National Portland Cement Company for work on Maria Island. It ran from the quarries to the Works. When the plant closed in 1930 it was sold. The locomotive was then used for many years at the Corrimal Colliery in NSW. In 1975 it was acquired by the transport museum at Colo Vale, NSW, where it has been superbly restored. It now runs regular trips on museum 'open days'.

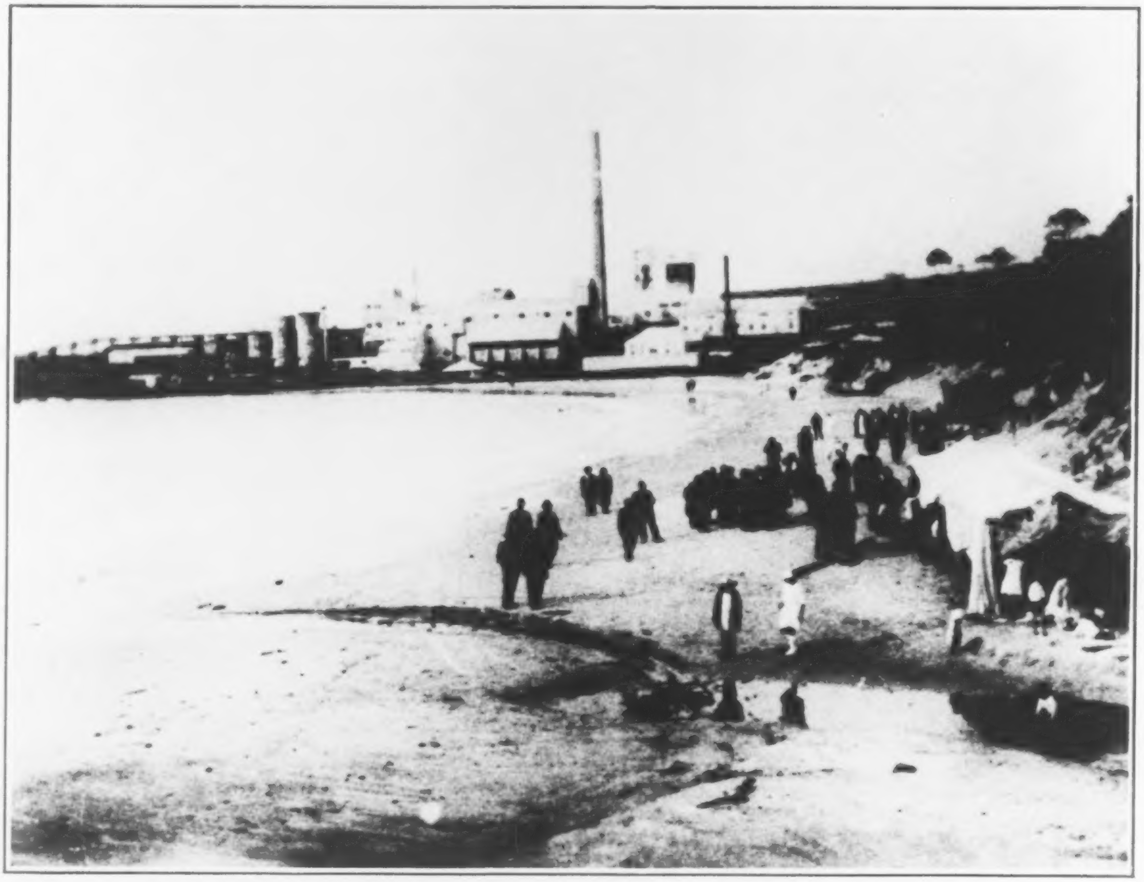
The driver and fireman in the photograph are said to be Arthur Blacklow and Ern Castle.

Points of interest:

- wood pile
- wood in cab
- dress of driver and fireman

Question:

- Can you find out and explain to your classmates how a steam engine worked?



30. *Sports Day, Darlington Beach, c.1924*

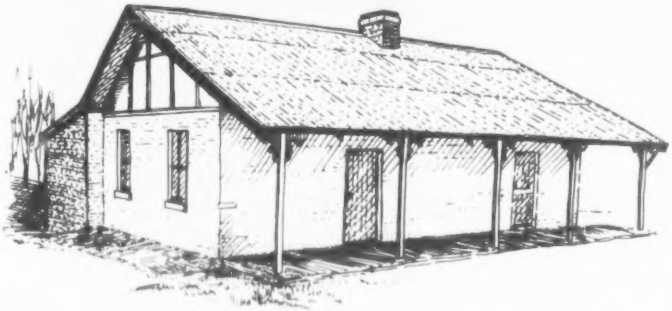
The National Portland Cement Company held an annual sports day for workers and their families. This photograph shows Darlington beach on Sports Day. In the foreground can be seen the marquee set up for the occasion. The refreshments available included icecream brought to the island in a canvas bag packed around with ice. The events on Sports Day included running races, sack races and three-legged races. Behind the marquee can be seen the bathing shed which was on Darlington beach for many years. A Hobart tailor used the shed when he came to lay out his samples and measure the men for new suits. His visits were always welcome as he was known as a great 'yarn spinner'. Even the men on the cliff quarry would stop work to listen to his tales.

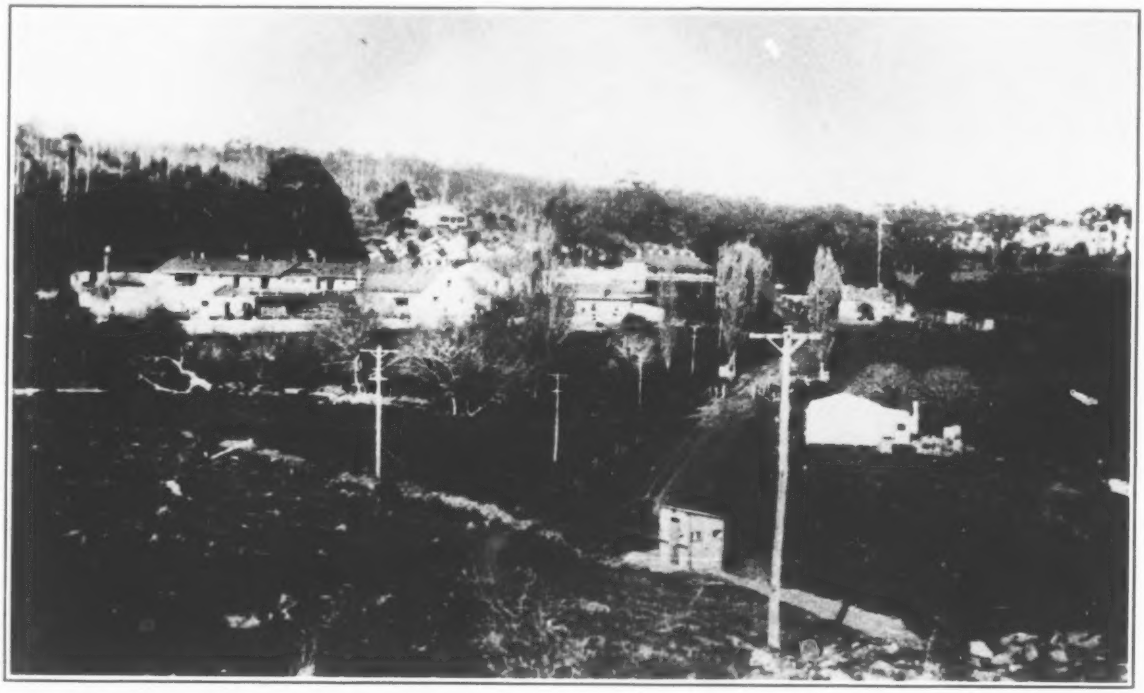
Points of interest:

- dress of children and adults
- dense trees along foreshore
- cement silo still under construction

Questions:

- Imagine you are at a popular beach on a fine summer's day. What differences would there be compared with the scene in the photograph above?
- Why have things changed?



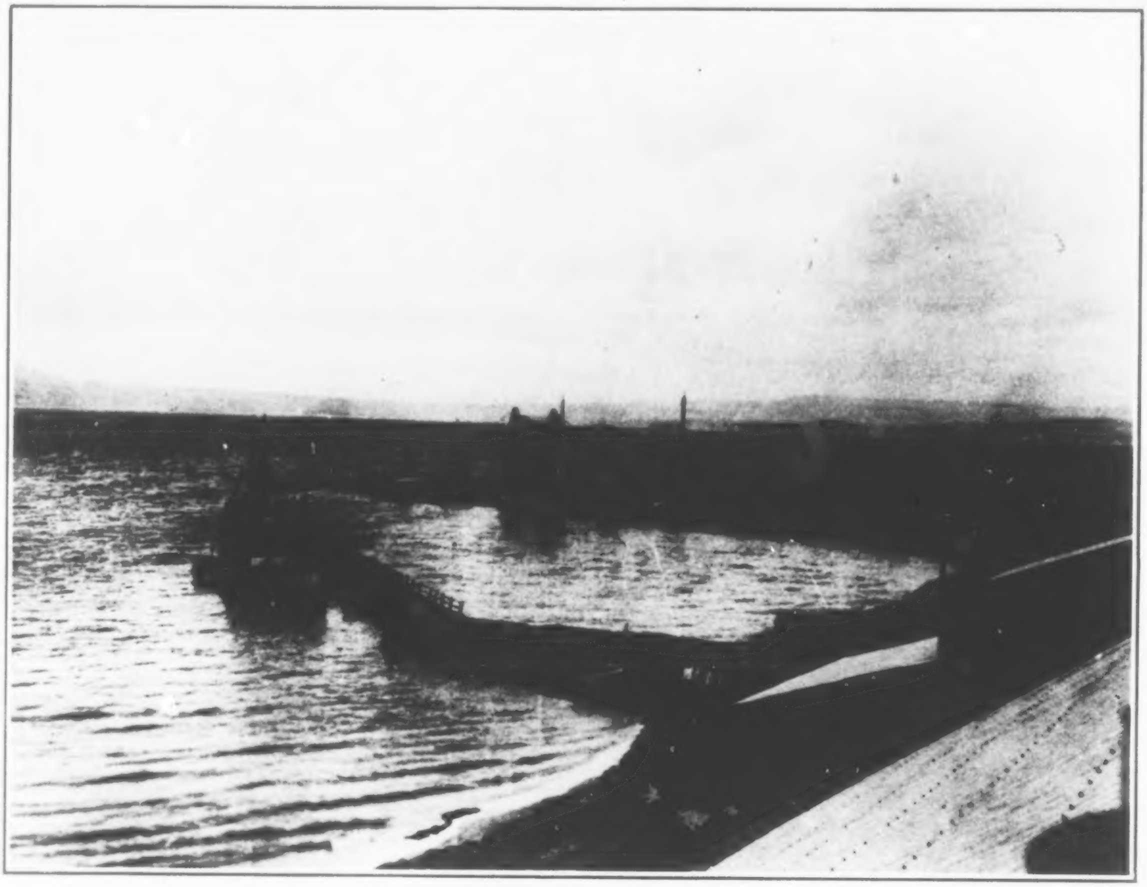


31. *Darlington township, 1920s*

The convict settlement of Darlington was overgrown and in a state of disrepair when the area was purchased in 1920 by the National Portland Cement Company. All buildings of possible use to the company were restored. By 1924 it was a busy town housing 250 company employees, their families and trades people. It had a baker, a butcher, a pastry-shop, a post office and bank agency, a school and two general stores. The convict-built chapel became the dance hall and picture theatre. It is said that, at night, farmers on the East Coast of Tasmania would look across with envy at Darlington's electric lights. The concrete blocks which held the poles for the street lights can still be seen.

Points of interest:
- pay office of Cement Works in foreground
- power lines
- recently planted avenue of macrocarpa pines
- poplar trees
- buildings behind penitentiary — corrugated iron, single-staff dwellings
- Bevis's Store at right near creek

Questions:
- Compare this photograph with the same view today. What has changed? Why?



32. *Waterfront, Darlington, Maria Island, 1920s*

The original jetty on the left was begun in 1825. By 1828 it had a crane to assist in unloading ships. By 1876 the jetty was a wreck, and when Signor Bernacchi came later, he had to organise its repair using workmen provided by the Government.

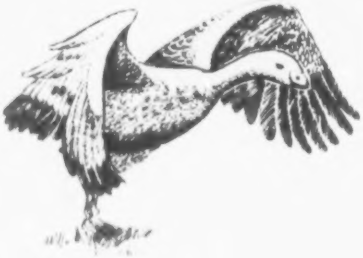
The larger jetty was a 200-metre-long wooden structure. The water was 10 metres deep at low tide. It was built by the National Portland Cement Company. A tramway ran along it and a large gantry was built at the end to bucket coal from ships into railway trucks. In the 1920s storms regularly delayed the loading and unloading of vessels. The large jetty was eventually washed away sometime after the Cement Works closed.

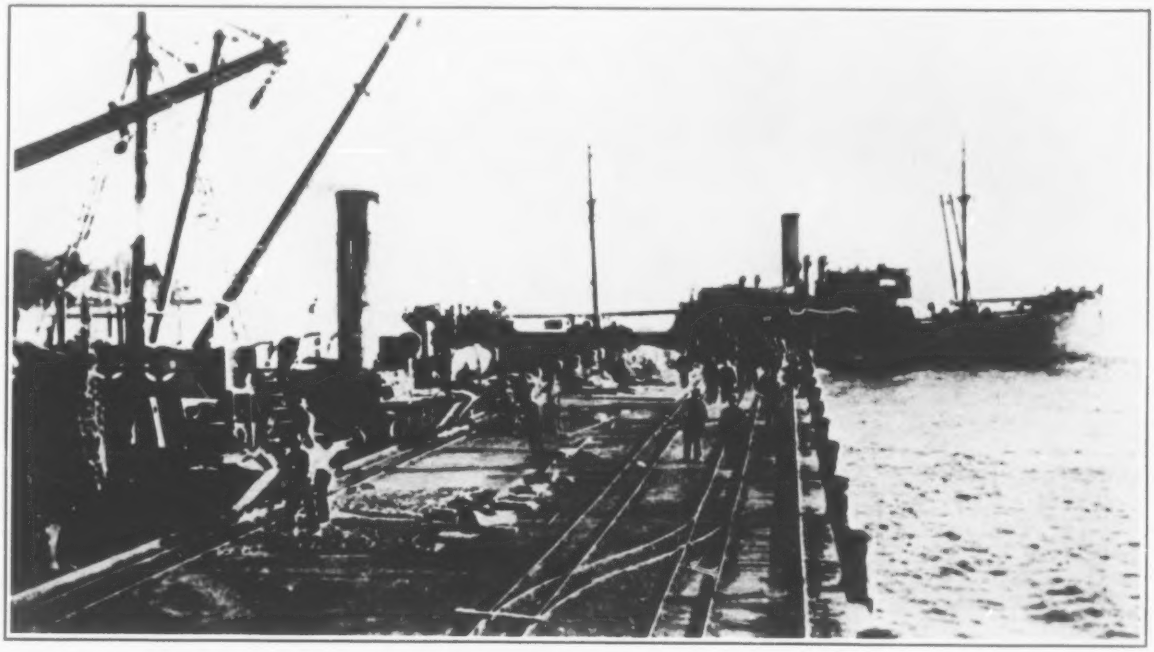
Points of interest:

- SS *Koomeela* berthed at small jetty
- slip for dinghy at inner end of stone jetty
- cluttered foreshore
- a sandstone bench-mark for survey purposes (BMD) can still be seen on the southern side of the stone jetty

Question/Activity

- Why was it necessary to build a jetty?
- See if you can find where the larger jetty began.





33. *The big jetty, Maria Island, c.1927*

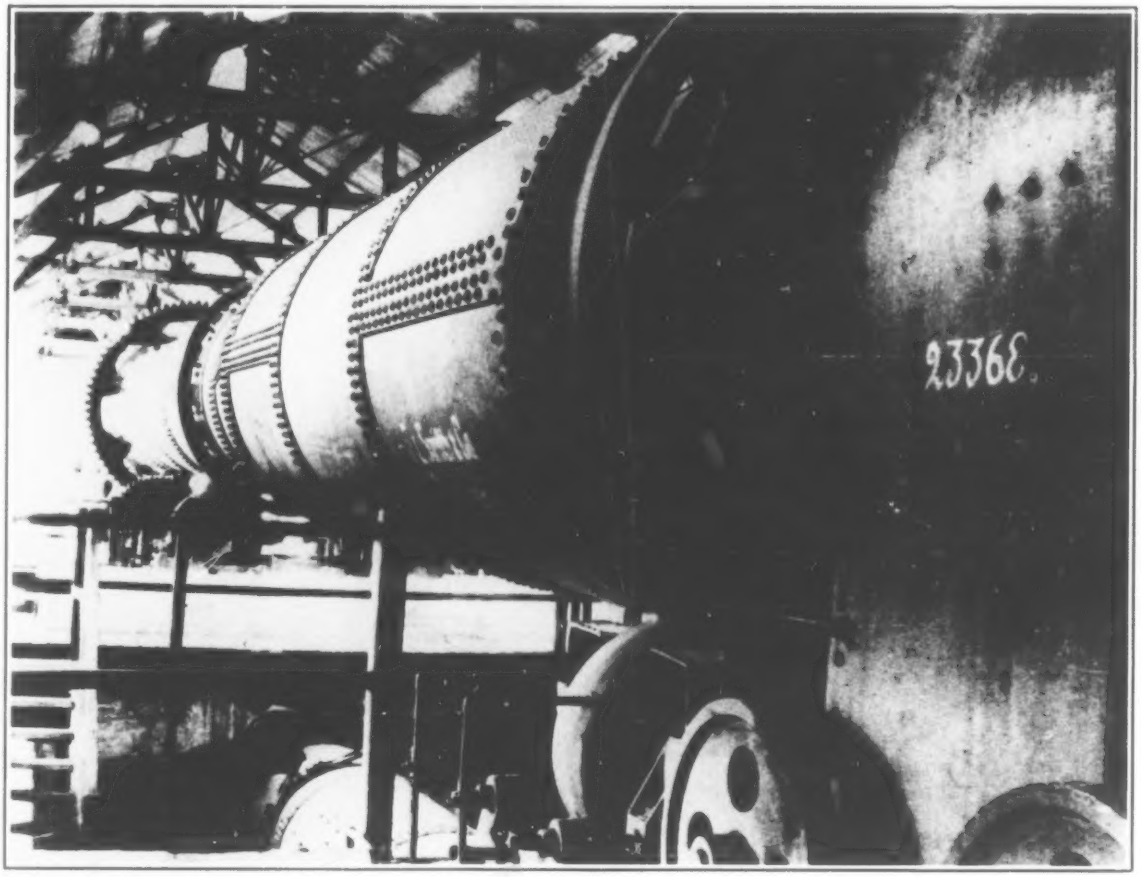
On the left of the jetty is a ship loading cement. Railway trucks carried bags of cement down to the jetty. They were unloaded by hand onto nets. The four corners of the net were hooked onto a crane from the ship and lowered into the hold where several men worked at unloading and stowing the bags. This work continued day and night until the ship was loaded. Later, a large gantry was built on the end of this jetty to make the unloading of coal easier.

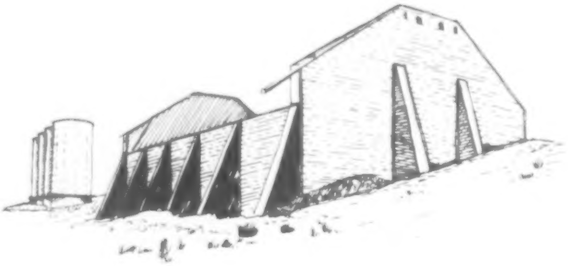
Points of interest:

- size of ships, jetty
- masts, rope-ladder, lifting gear, funnels on ships
- nets on jetty (centre foreground)

Questions:

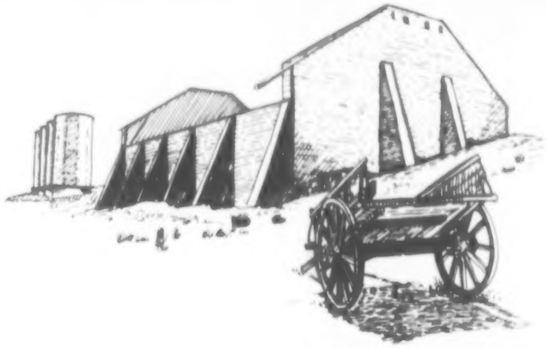
- What would it have been like to stack bags of cement in the hold of the ship ?
- Write a short paragraph describing the scene.

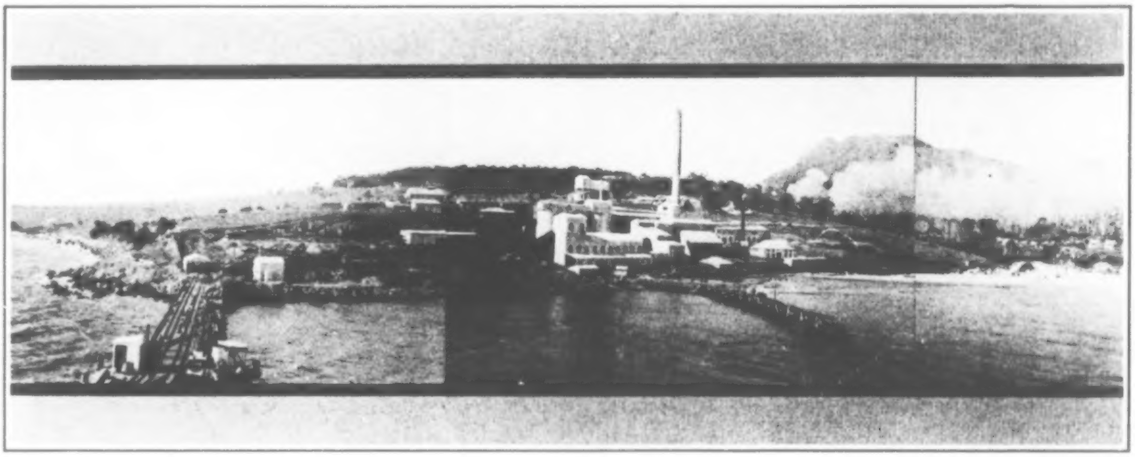


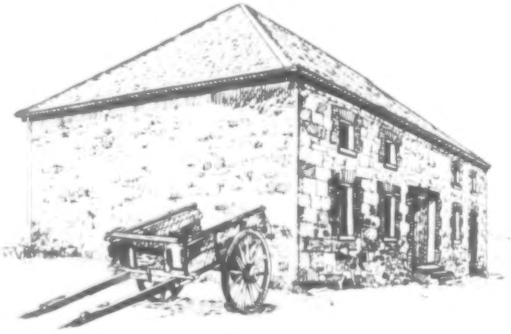


34. *Rotary kiln, Darlington Cement Works, c.1927*

Portland cement was usually produced by grinding together, into a cream or slurry, about 75 per cent limestone and 25 per cent clay. At Maria Island Cement Works, clay was transported from Bloodstone Point, and limestone from the Fossil Cliff and Crinoid quarries by a tramway network. The slurry was fed into the 45-metre long rotary kiln which was heated by pulverised coal from the coal mill. The slurry was dried, fused and finished up as clinker. This was then ground as fine as talcum powder and stored in the silos. It was finally packed into recycled hand-sewn bags, ready for transport to the jetty.







35. *Panorama of National Portland Cement Works Maria Island, c.1927*

This panoramic photograph was put together for the National Portland Cement Company for use in its publicity materials. Some features of the photograph are, from left to right: new jetty, railway network, elevated coal-haulage, convict barn-workshop complex, assay office, cement silos, cement shed, raw mill, chimney stack (200 feet) with company offices (old Grand Hotel) behind, clinker store with whaleboat shed in front, power house with small steel chimney stack and the Commissariat Store (Company store). On the right are the 'Twelve Apostles'. A glimpse of Darlington can be seen through the poplar trees that are growing along the 'avenue'.

Points of interest:

- ringbarked hillside
- smoke
- haulage way

Questions:

- How was this photograph taken? Where was it taken from?
- Maria Island was once important for the Cement Works. Why is Maria Island important to us now?